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TWO SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS;

with Introductory Remarks

BY THE REV. JOHN N. WOODROFFE, M.A.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thess. v. 21.

"Il y a du bonheur et de l'esprit à employer les paroles d'un poëte à une chose à quoy le poëte ne pense jamais, et à les employer si àpropos qu'elles semblent avoir esté faites exprès pour le sujet auquel elles sont appliquées."

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THE REV. CHARLES LESLIE, M.A.

Vicar of the Parish of the Holy Trinity, Cork,

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Probably in no case more signally than in the present would introductory remarks of an elaborate and lengthy nature be considered intrusive and ill-timed. Impressed with this feeling, I shall as briefly as possible detain the reader with a few statements which may present to his view the design of the work which lies before him. It was commenced by my young friends solely for their own improvement and amusement, without the least intention of bringing it before the public; and it was not until repeatedly urged to do so by many well-judging and experienced Christians, that they ventured to commit to print the work of their leisure hours.

Now that it has appeared, they neither expect nor desire that it may supersede other works of the same nature, but that possessing some little share of novelty in its arrangement and composition, blending the solid truths of Scripture texts with the pleasing efforts of imagination and poetry, it may at least be allowed to form one of those "every-day books" which afford aliment for the soul, by leading us to the Divine source of "truth as it is in Jesus;"—may produce an habitual influence upon the happiness and holiness of the

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Christian ;—may contribute to the comfort and enjoyment of his secluded moments, and assist in carrying into practice the excellent precept of the learned Hale, "never be without a book in daily reading of a direct Scriptural nature." To those who will thus peruse it, it may serve at least as an index to point to some subject of Divine instruction suitable to their peculiar circumstances, and bringing before them the combined testimony of Scripture, may afford them solace or direction as they require, vibrating in consonance with the string of joy or sorrow which the providence of God has struck in their bosoms.

In this time-state of the church, there is a vast preponderance of imperfection and consequent suffering; and though no affliction happens to any but what is common to all, yet it presents a new and untried aspect to every sufferer. Some have drank its cup of woe in sorrowful solitude over the wreck of broken ties and disappointed hopes; on others, the smiling sun of prosperity has set, and left them unpitied, unheeded, and unknown. How many have their souls disturbed with conflicting passions, or looking back over the path of stormy life, which desolation has deprived of every happy feeling, behold all the resources of enjoyment which they once possessed abridged, and their personal ease and liberty of thought exchanged for the painful exertions and careful contrivances of anxious want! while how many are the distressing feelings of a spiritual nature, the bitterness of which the heart that endures them only knows! We cannot therefore afford to lose one drop of comfort which ingenuity may apply with ever-varying experience, to our wants. Under such sufferings, the Scripture, or

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any other work of a decided scriptural nature, is the only delight and necessary food of the afflicted; to them he turns for succour. Retirement and devotion are his congenial climes, and he seeks them, not for the amusement which they once afforded, but as a relief for the sting he now poignantly feels.

But the Bible has not been given merely for comfort,—the Christian requires more than this,—"reproof, correction, doctrine," form each so many arrows in the quiver of the Divine Word. Who has not observed how the mind even of the most unconverted is soothed under the balm of gospel promises? and too often it is to be feared that ministers, or private Christians, in the discharge of their respective spheres of duty, unwilling, perhaps, to wound the feelings of their spiritual patients, apply the rich and refreshing cordials of God's promises with empiric rashness to cases where the probing precept, or the lancet of Divine doctrine, is absolutely requisite to let out the gangrene of self-righteousness, or discover the faults and inconsistent conduct of the formalist. In such instances, the soul cries "peace, peace" to itself where there is no ground for peace; and therefore requires that the wide range of Scripture subjects be brought before its view, so that as each of them appears for consideration, it may be induced by the Holy Spirit's teaching, to search into its creed and conduct, to discover its shortcomings in every Christian grace, and be led thereby to true repentance. Or, when the mind of the Christian has rested sluggishly upon the first principles of religion, without daily advancing in the knowledge of his own utter vileness by nature and practice,—his helpless position and complete depend-

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ence, and where, at the same time, there is a corresponding want in the discovery of the fulness, freeness, and sovereignty of the Saviour's work; may not these pages prove the source of elementary instruction, holding forth the Scripture basis on which each doctrine or precept rests,—inviting by its simplicity and order, a diligent inquiry, like that of the Bereans of old, "whether those things are so," or not; and thus produce that confidence and childlike humility which at once trusts the promise, obeys the command, and receives the reward. All Scripture is indeed "given by inspiration of God;" every line of that holy volume, by which He has broken the silence of eternity, and spoken to the ear of man, is impressed with the stamp of his Deity; some portions of it truly involve a deeper consequence than others, like some parts of the material system in which we dwell; yet each of them holds its peculiar position, and reveals something of its heavenly Author. By Him it has been designed for general instruction; it lies before us therefore with a popular and unsystematic character, making it necessary that every part of this skilfully arranged circle of Divine instruction should be perused with the utmost earnestness, devotion, and prayer; not in detached portions, but by comparing each part of Scripture with the rest. All readers have not time sufficient to allow them to do so by consulting extensive references; but those who have thus studied the Word of God can with truth assert that the insight they obtain into difficult passages is so great as largely to repay their toil, and to convince them that the examination of well-selected references constitutes one of the best helps for impressing the Word of God indelibly

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upon the attention, leading the mind to a just interpretation of it, and in many instances communicating light to the footsteps, and warmth to the heart; it gives a connected view of Scripture, which powerfully tends to check the first risings of scepticism, by discovering that every part of Divine truth, like each portion of an arch, maintains, and is maintained by, all the rest, and mutually explains each other; so much so, that were the whole range of falsely-styled philosophy brought to bear upon a Christian's faith, thus instructed, with all its obscure depths and artful reasonings, it would not be able to produce an impression. "We cannot," says Chillingworth, "speak of the things of God better than in the words of God;" and by combining these in the regular and associated order of explanatory or parallel references, we bring their comprehensive compass, penned at "sundry times," and upon different occasions, presenting events of the richest variety, biography of the most opposite characters, the wisest and simplest rules of life, and the authority of doctrines that revelation alone could discover, to support each part of truth; we convey the experience of ages which rolled before the flood, and set them in context with apostolic times; we re-act, as it were, Tabor's scene of transfiguration, and bring Moses and Elias, or Christ, of whom they spoke, or Abraham, who by far-fetching faith, "rejoiced to see his day," or the disciples, who humbly waited at his feet, and hear them all, with accurate and harmonious testimony, declaring the same truths. It may be said, therefore, in sincerity, that in examining Scripture by its own exposition, we are taught, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which

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the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

Or should the young disciple be required to "give a reason of the hope that is in him," which he should at all times be "ready to do with *meekness*," remembering his own unskilfulness and ignorance, and with "*fear*," considering in whose sacred cause he is embarked, may not the compilers hope that their work might prove a useful compendium of texts upon the several branches of the Christian faith, and lead the inexperienced mind to a further investigation of Scripture evidence? How many such characters as those we have described are tossed about in the commencement of their discipleship, "by every wind of doctrine!" From the want of some pious friend, or simple work of this nature, their obscure notions and indefinite ideas expose them to many dangers; preventing them from receiving the "full assurance of faith" and "hope" which affords the surest foundation for piety, as well as the brightest prospects of eternal glory, and keeping their souls in a state of miserable despondency, which either paralyzes all effort, or leads to that state of dangerous presumption which would deem all exertion to be unnecessary.

"When the child of God is drawn away, it is most frequently by his being tempted through something apparently good." Any thing openly erroneous in matters of faith, or decidedly ungodly in practice, would startle him at once by its enormity, and excite his aversion; but it is when the enemy, "transforming himself into an angel of light," induces the believer gladly to admit him as a heavenly visitant, and appearing with the Bible in his hand, and advancing his

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claims upon that holy ground, tempts him to feel that he is not only secure but happy in following the will of God, that he is then easily betrayed into the coldness of formality, or excited into the fever of enthusiasm, by substituting doubt for humility, or grasping after every novelty. No unfrequent examples of this are found in the Christian's hastily embracing what he does not understand, or attaching himself with a kind of spiritual short-sightedness to the opinion which first struck his attention, engrossing his time with that which however intrinsically true and good in itself, may hold but a very subordinate station in the plan of redemption, and be likely, therefore, to keep him in a drooping state, by narrowing the wide field of vision over which the excursive energies of faith desires to wander, and on which it finds objects and motives for its inseparable companion, *Christian love*, to expatiate. To remove such temptations as these, and many others of a kindred nature, how needful is it that "the whole counsel of God" be affectionately and lucidly laid before the mind, as it stands on its own foundation, and in connexion with the rest of revelation: not indulging the speculative, to the neglect of the practical; not diving into the mysterious, to the overlooking of the plain; not exalting precept, to the sacrifice of doctrines, forgetting that they pre-eminently form the safeguard of holy practice, and thus prevent the heart of the simple and affectionate child of God, glowing with all the ardour of first love, from being deceived, and from fearfully poisoning into a curse what God has been pleased in his infinite benignity to confer as a blessing to our souls.

With the hope that it may be useful in this way,

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I trust that my dear brethren in the ministry, here and elsewhere, and indeed all who "love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" and truth, will discover that in this volume there is no undue prominency given to any point; here the inquirer will find each Person of the adorable Trinity presented in the fulness of his gospel relationship to the church: the Father in his eternal, unchangeable love; the Son in the freeness and faithfulness of his finished salvation; and the Holy Spirit, in the sanctifying, comforting, and indwelling operations of his power. Consonant with these truths, he will learn his own fallen and corrupted state, — his helplessness and misery, — his sin and guilt, and then all the parts of the economy of grace, in its promises and precepts, its aids and encouragements, its warnings and invitations, presented in such faithful adherence to the width of Scripture testimony, as will render it a desirable exercise for his study. Here he may follow the stream of prophecy, from its source to its accomplishment; may explore the gloom of the past, or gaze with adoring gratitude upon the foreshadowed glory of the future, and examine the present claims, or the destined triumphs of revelation. Here he may take a connected view of gospel tidings, and his soul may prostrate itself in deep humility before the cross on which the bleeding Prince of glory purchased salvation; or trace in deep lines the presence and power of that destructive agent, SIN, through the history of his race; or may occupy himself in examining the one great purpose of the Eternal, in counteracting its influences, as it unfolds before his view, in the history of the past, the experience of the present, or the discovery of the future, here he may find the

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work of grace mapped out, from the first announcement of eternal love, until piercing the awful distance, he does, by the eye of faith, anticipate its glorious consummation, and bounding at will over the interval of days and years, bathes in the ocean of seraphic love, amid the "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Or he may ponder over the ruin which sin has brought upon the material creation, until at last, by revelation's light, he beholds its prostrate ruins remoulded into a "new heavens and a new earth," once more blessed with the presence and approving smile of its Creator; so that by God's blessing, this volume may be an instrument of good to many, alluring by its variety, interesting by the extent of knowledge to which it leads, establishing the Christian's faith in the whole counsel of God, by its widely extended research into scriptural truth, assisting his memory, by its correct classification of texts, and directing his attention to some hitherto unheeded precept. Thus, as a prism brings out distinctly each of those varied colours which form, when mingled, the pure brightness of light, so may this work be considered to separate each doctrine, duty, and privilege, which stand combined upon the page of Scripture, not to give undue priority to any, but that it may lead, by the clear understanding and heart-felt experience of each component part, to their being blended and united again with all the properties of life, in the actual existence of the Christian's character.

Nor do I think such a work as this will be found useless in the hands of pious parents, who may wish to bring before their children a collected view of scripture testimony, or to engage their as yet unwearied minds

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upon the rich and expansive truths of Christianity: to a *mother* especially, it may be beneficial; to her belongs, in a great measure, the moral and religious training of the infant mind, which may then easily obtain an external acquaintance with these things, and be gently moulded into, at least, an outward observance of them; whereas it would sooner break than bend when its warm feelings have been once chilled and hardened by intercourse with the world. Nor need I say, in such affectionate hands as a mother's should be, truth must possess its keenest edge; while, if its heavenly-tempered blade is wielded with cold-heartedness or sternness, in vain will be the best and most constant lessons, for they will fall upon hearers who have become sullen and reluctant under a frigid and unaffectionate system. God has established in each parent's breast a perennial spring of love, which is neither liable to be abated by years, nor is dependent upon the returns it may receive, containing at once, the elements of the most exhaustless passions, balanced with a pliancy of the gentlest tenderness, the most nervous energy united with the softest feeling. How truly blessed is such a combination as this, when having been brought beneath the Spirit's operation, it sets itself down with prayerfulness of heart, steadiness of purpose, and prudence of direction, not so much to teach, as by the deathless lesson of a holy and consistent walk, to allure the object of its solicitude along the path of heavenly instruction; when taking the child of its love, it advances with it hand in hand up the steep, but pleasing heights of scripture study, and as they gain each elevated summit, look back over the rich and

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refreshing landscape which they have just enjoyed, and then, halting for a moment in silent rapture, or united prayer, obtain fresh vigour and renewed ardency of soul, to soar still higher. This will prevent the parent or teacher from forgetting, that while, as has been well remarked, "the Bible is the best book for the intellect, it is the only book for the soul," that however they may act the master's part in enabling their pupil to unravel its difficulties or understand its criticisms, it is, and must be, not so much in this capacity, but as fellow-candidates for immortality, that they bring the child to search its pages for nutriment suitable and absolutely necessary for the souls of both; that they themselves are athirst for God, have fled with all their guilt and misery to the Friend of sinners for pardon, have laid all their sorrows on his breast for consolation; and, when anxiety and trouble may have been their lot, have brought their broken and afflicted hearts to the healing and peace-bestowing blood of Jesus. This will make religion wear an attractive aspect, and exalt and consecrate the endearing ties of relationship and friendship to the high and holy purpose of infusing religion, enforced by practice and sympathy of feeling, into the hearts of the objects of its care. This may, under God's blessing, be crowned with that success, which is the brightest and holiest reward which the hopes of Christian love are capable of receiving, and may become the source of the sweetest happiness which flows through any created channel into the believer's heart; the joy (and oh! what a joy to a Christian parent's bosom!) of being the instrument of saving a soul, and that, the soul of his own child, "from the error of his way," and preparing it for

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that time when it shall be transplanted from the uncongenial climate of earth, to flourish in the paradise above with undecaying beauty. Such an exercise, pursued in a watchful, prayerful manner, and supported by a holy, calm, and consistent life, can scarcely fail to extract the poisonous sting of idolatrous attachment to the creature, which is too often cherished towards the objects dearest to a parent's heart, and hallowing each legitimate feeling by the Saviour's approving smile, will impress the stamp of eternity upon those affections which, having their birthplace on earth, too often find it to be likewise their tomb.

The Sabbath school teacher may receive assistance in his labour of love, self-sacrifice, and patience, by gleaning from its pages some useful topics on which he may enlarge, or proposing them as subjects on which his pupils may search for additional Scripture evidence for themselves. There is a practical meaning in the familiar comparison often made of the infant mind to a narrow-necked bottle, which, with due patience may be filled with drops, but into which it is impracticable to pour a stream. This I deem to be just the position of the Sunday school teacher; he cannot forget that it is by "line upon line, and precept upon precept," he instils the drops of Divine knowledge; he has a number of youthful hearts before him, which he knows can only be effectually wrought upon from above, by God's applying the lesson which he inculcates, while there intervenes a large gap between each opportunity of instruction, and that space too often filled by occupations and studies most unsuitable and inconsistent with the tuition of the Sabbath school. Here the teacher will find it prudent

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and prove beneficial, to employ his pupils upon some subject with which their minds may be engaged throughout the week; and, what more useful than those which will lead them to investigate Scripture testimony? But let these questions be so given, explained, and dwelt upon, as to show that the teacher desires not so much to lay down a digested system of sacred science, as to lead his class to engraft the every-day actions of life and the motives of accidental facts, upon the solid and well-proved truths of God's revelation; and with this, to classify and arrange the stores which by past study and experience they may have already accumulated.

For some of the subjects the Compilers have found it impossible to obtain poetical pieces: many of these are of a practical nature, entering into the every-day engagements and relationships of life, too tame and dull a region perhaps for the poet's fiery wing to soar through. But where the Spirit of God has touched the heart, He imparts an immortality to that love which He has wound around his people's souls, which needs not the beauty or brilliancy of poetry to commend the duties of Christianity; a love, of which Christ is the Divine source, and the Holy Spirit the Divine sustainer; which will call forth a diligent fulfilment of every precept, with a constancy unlike the perishable affections of the world, which bloom verdantly under a momentary sunshine, and then drooping, die for ever.

In conclusion, I would suggest the necessity of a more diligent perusal of the Scripture, which, as a fountain, deepens beneath our gaze,—the more we investigate it, the more precious are the truths we

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obtain. But remember, reader, in the perusal of God's word, that it requires the teaching of its Divine Author, at whose powerful command alone its heavenly visions are thrown open, and its broad fields of instruction expanded before our view: crowded as these are, with all that is sublime and amazing, adequate to engage the capacities of the wisest and most learned, no eye but that which has been opened to "behold wondrous things out of the Divine law" is capable of discerning and experiencing the beauty, harmony, and grandeur of its truths, for "with the heart" awakened by the Spirit's power alone, can "man believe unto salvation." It is, therefore, our first duty to seek diligently by prayer His instructions, by whom our judgments may be directed, our affections properly determined, and strength afforded to discharge faithfully the many and various duties which that word unfolds. When he has taken away the dense cloud of obscurity and ignorance which hangs thickly over our darkened understandings, he enables us to discover the breadth of those precepts which lie hid in the law, and to penetrate and experience the truth of those mysteries which are concealed in the gospel.

There can be no compromise between the statements of God as to our inability, and the proud assertion which human wisdom makes, to persuade us that our spiritual darkness is but trifling. We must renounce our own wisdom, and follow implicitly his sacred teaching and the obvious meaning of his word; and this supernatural illumination of God's Spirit we require not only at the commencement of our religious career, but throughout the whole of it, for to Him it is given to break the seals of *this* book, and

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rend away the veil which sin has woven before our vision; or, as his word has often been compared to a dial or compass, neither of which will afford us the information we seek without a light being thrown upon them, so it is only "in his light that we see light," whereby we may be guided into truth. Let our constant inquiry therefore be, *what* it reveals, not *why*, and then whatever his word lays down, our faith will realize. This will bring us to the study of its pages with an unprejudiced mind, and impress us with the necessity that we "should not teach our Bibles, but let our Bibles teach us." It is true, in the perusal of them, we may examine each proof in detail, may sum up their accumulated evidence with all the force of demonstration, and spell over every word in its vocabulary, but never, until we come with a child-like spirit, can we feel the energy of its doctrines, bend submissively beneath its exhortations, or enter into the refreshing comforts which the rich variety of its spiritual treasury affords.

The mind of every man is naturally disaffected to the doctrines of the gospel: they plainly declare that the natural heart is "enmity against God, that it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be," and that there is no middle state between this fearful position and the Christian; they lay the foundation of a sinner's hope alone on Christ, and then proceed to raise the superstructure of good works; they teach that this salvation is provided solely by grace, received only by faith, and applied alone by the Spirit; they present Jesus as "made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;" his life the model according to which ours must be conformed;

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his merits the only altar upon which our obedience can be presented; and union with him the only effectual cause of fruitfulness, for in him believers, as "the workmanship of God, are created anew unto good works." It is not surprising that these humbling doctrines, however plainly revealed in the Scripture, should be exposed to the perverseness of inveterate prejudice, or to the misconstructions of ignorance, possessing, as they do, a humiliating character, which denies the power of our independent efforts. We are naturally prone to soften the strong features of Divine truth, and bring them into unison with our own desires or pre-arranged systems. To take but one example: How many efforts have been made by critical ingenuity to overthrow the doctrine of justification by faith, and present it as the happy result of the mercy of God, combined with the merits of man, rather than flowing through the channel of a Saviour's righteousness and redemption; how long hath the world decried salvation by grace, as a scheme injurious to the interests of morality, and tending to lower the authority of God's commands? whereas, wherever it has been received in truth and love, it has never failed of producing a holy walk, and leaving this instructive lesson upon the mind of its recipient, that there is a characteristic feature of wisdom and power upon all the ways and revelations of God which stamps them with the impress of Divinity; therefore, however this or any other similar doctrine may wring the heart upon its first reception, revelation tells us that "we are not sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves," and that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God," for

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they are too high for him to attain, too deep for him to explore, and too expansive for him to measure with his own efforts; and therefore, we should either remain perpetually in the darkness of error, or be guided by the uncertain ray of hazardous conjecture. Reason, when instructed by the Holy Spirit, conducts us to the same position, and telling us how much she wants, directs our thoughts to Him "who worketh every thing according to the counsel of his own will," and teaches us to bend in humble submission to the revealed declarations of the Eternal. The mere scholarship of human learning, or the clearness of its demonstrations, cannot dispel the alienation of the heart against these truths; it is only the Almighty, when looking into its sanctuary, can discern and unravel the threads of its intricate loom, and deigning to hold communion with His creature, can renew and regulate its spiritual existence. The prayer of a soul on which God has thus operated, awakened into consciousness of its state, and dissatisfied with all *it is* and *has*, will feel its great need of faith, and ever send forth the prayer, "Lord, help mine unbelief."

This disquietude of spirit is the great evidence that the turning point of conversion is proceeding; the soul then hears the secret whisper of a disturbed conscience, "I am not what I should be." Happy are we when the Spirit of God has thus convinced us of our blindness, impotence, and sinfulness, and has enkindled in our soul this desire for spiritual wisdom. Happy are you, dear brother, if the broken reed upon which you so long leaned has been removed, and the anchor of mere earthly dependence broken through. It required the fearful storms of law and justice to do

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so. This knowledge of your own ignorance is the only solid ground-work for your further advance in Christian experience and holiness of life; this acquaintance with your own wretchedness sends you to the strength of a Saviour's omnipotence, to draw from thence a pledge of conquest through Him who will make you "more than conqueror." This self-despair warns you to rise and fly to the same Spirit who opened your heart to receive the things of God, to help your infirmities in prayer, to strive with the flesh, to lead, instruct, and comfort you, and "sealing you unto the day of redemption," to pour abroad over your soul the earnest of that bliss which now gladdens your once cheerless and darkened mind, by giving you "the light of the glory of God, which shines in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord."

However this or similar works may be an assistance in the understanding of the Scriptures, or in discerning the connexion between its respective truths, never let them be placed in the stead of the word itself; in its pure and unalloyed pages do we find *that* nourishment which is suitable to the heavenly nature of the soul. Much do I fear that it is an evil especially peculiar to our times, when religious literature is so extensively provided to please the varying taste of the public appetite, and is so eagerly sought after, to suffer the intellect to feed in a kind of spiritual luxury among the productions of time, and rise from the light and pampering feast with a self-satisfied persuasion that we have been religiously employed, while we forget that the really beneficial result is to lead us to the sacred granaries with increasing hunger. And perhaps it would be no unfair test of the

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real value of any work, were we to propose this as the trial of its worth and spirit, Do we rise from the perusal of it with fresh vigour and determination to search the records of eternity? The more directly a book leads us to these, the more likely do I conceive it to prove useful; while it signifies not how showy may be its genius, how imaginative its story, and accurate and pleasing its style, if, upon having passed over its pages, they leave a disrelish for an immediate return to the Bible.

J. N. W.

Glanmire.

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.

SCRIPTURES.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES ARE GIVEN BY THE INSPIRATION OF GOD.

2 Sam. xxiii. 2. Nehem. ix. 30. Zech. vii. 12. Luke i. 70. 2 Tim. iii. 16. Heb. iii. 7. 1 Peter i. 11. 2 Peter i. 20, 21.

Whence, but from heaven, could men unskill'd in arts,
In several ages born, in several parts,
Weave such agreeing truths? Or how, or why
Should all conspire to cheat us with a lie?
Unask'd their pains, ungrateful their advice,
Starving their gain, and martyrdom their price.
If on the book itself we cast our view,
Concurrent heathens prove the story true:
The doctrines, miracles, which must convince,
For Heaven in them appeals to human sense;
And though they prove not, they confirm the cause,
When what is taught agrees with nature's laws.
Then for the style, majestic and divine,
It speaks no less than God in every line.

Dryden.

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ARE SENT TO ALL.

Deut. xxxii. 1. Isaiah i. 2. Jer. vi. 19; xxii. 29. Micah i. 2. Hab. ii. 2. Luke xvi. 29. John v. 39. Acts xvii. 11. 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16. 2 Peter i. 19.

Father of mercies, in thy word
What endless glory shines!
For ever be thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

There may the wretched sons of want
Exhaustless riches find;
Riches, above what earth can grant,
And lasting as the mind.

Here the Redeemer's welcome voice
Spreads heavenly peace around;
And life and everlasting joys
Attend the blissful sound.

Mrs. Steele.

ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION.

Rom. iv. 23, 24; xv. 4. 1 Cor. ix. 9, 10; x. 11. 2 Tim. iii. 16.

Heaven's will; heaven's code of laws entire,
To men, this book contains; defines the bounds
Of vice and virtue, and of life and death;
Much it reveals; important all; the least
Worth more than what else seems of highest worth:
The subject, God and man, salvation, life
And death,—eternal life,—eternal death.

Pollok.

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NAMES.—ARE CALLED SCRIPTURES.

Dan. x. 21. Mark xii. 24. Luke xxiv. 27, 32, 45. John v. 39. Acts xvii. 2, 11; xviii. 24. Rom. iv. 3. 1 Cor. xv. 4. Gal. iv. 30. 1 Tim. v. 18. 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16. 2 Pet. i. 20; iii. 16.

While we hearken, O unfold
The Scriptures to our mind!
Their mysteries let us now behold,
Their hidden treasures find.

J. Montgomery.

ORACLES OF GOD.

Acts vii. 38. Rom. iii. 2. Heb. v. 12. 1 Peter iv. 11.

When quiet in my house I sit,
Thy book be my companion still;
My joy thy sayings to repeat,
Talk o'er the records of thy will,
And search the oracles divine,
Till every heartfelt word be mine.

C. Wesley.

WORD.

Psalm cxix. 81; cxxx. 5; cxlvii. 19. Prov. xxx. 5. Isaiah xl. 8; lv. 11. Jer. xx. 9; xxiii. 9, 29. John xvii. 17. Acts xx. 32. Rom. x. 8. Gal. vi. 6. Ephes. v. 26. Phil. ii. 16. Col. iii. 16. 1 Thess. ii. 13. 2 Thess. iii. 1. 2 Tim. iv. 2. Titus i. 9. Heb. iv. 2; v. 13. James i. 21, 22. 1 Peter i. 23, 25; ii. 2. 2 Peter i. 19. Rev. iii. 10; xii. 11.

Thy Word, O God, with heavenly bread
Thy children doth supply;
And those who by thy Word are fed,
Their souls shall never die.

C. Wesley.

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WORD OF TRUTH.

Psalm cxix. 43. John xvii. 17. 2 Cor. vi. 7. Ephes. i. 13. Col. i. 5. 2 Tim. ii. 15. James i. 18.

Jesus, Lord, our hearts inspire
With that true word of thine;
Kindle now that heavenly fire,
To brighten and refine.

C. Wesley.

ARE PURE AND TRIED.

Psalm xii. 6; xviii. 30; cxix. 140. Prov. xxx. 5.

This book—this holy book, on every line
Mark'd with the seal of high divinity,
On every leaf bedewed with drops of love
Divine, and with the eternal heraldry
And signature of God Almighty stamped.

Pollok.

TO BE READ.

Deut. vi. 6—8. Isaiah viii. 20; xxxiv. 16. Hab. ii. 2. John v. 39. Acts xvii. 11. Rev. i. 3.

Read and revere the sacred page,—a page
Where triumphs immortality; a page
Which not the whole creation could produce;
Which not the conflagration shall destroy:
'Tis printed in the mind of God for ever;
In nature's ruins not one letter lost.

Young.

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TO BE HEARD.

Deut. xxviii. 1. Isaiah lv. 2, 3. Mark iv. 24. Luke xi. 28; xvi. 29. Rom. x. 17. 2 Peter i. 19. Rev. i. 3.

When the page of truth before thee spreads
Its chastened light,
And some reviving promise round thee sheds
Hopes clear and bright,
There speaks the Gospel's Author; to that word,
Favoured disciple of a pitying Lord,
Bend, meekly bend, a still, attentive ear,—
'Tis His "to speak," with reverence thine to hear.

E. Taylor.

TO BE BELIEVED.

Psalm cxix. 66. Mark i. 15. John xx. 31. Acts xxiv. 14. Rom. i. 16; x. 17. 2 Thess. ii. 13.

With revelation's bright, enlightening beam
Shed o'er the soul, 'tis darkly that we see
The plainer objects of the eternal scheme;
Believe, not comprehend, each deeper mystery.

T. Walker.

TO BE LOVED.

Job xxiii. 12. Psalm xix. 10; cxix. 48, 97, 167.

O how I love thy holy word,
Thy gracious covenant, O Lord!
It guides me in the peaceful way;
I think upon it all the day.

Cowper.

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TO BE TAUGHT.

Deut. iv. 9; vi. 7; xi. 19. Psalm lxxviii. 5, 6.

While taught to read the word of truth,
May we that word receive;
And when we hear of Jesus' name,
In that bless'd name believe.

Anon.

TO BE MEDITATED ON.

Josh. i. 8. Job xxii. 22. Psalm i. 2; cxix. 15, 23, 48, 78, 148. Col. iii. 16.

Assist my meditation, blessed Lord;
Unfold to me the wonders of thy word;
Those holy mysteries by thee reveal'd
To those who are by thine own Spirit seal'd;
And when I would approach thy mercy-seat,
To spread thy promises beneath thy feet,
To think upon the glories hidden there,
O help my meditation and my prayer!

Anon.

TO BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY.

Deut. vi. 6—8. Job xxii. 22. Psalm cxix. 11. Col. iii. 16.

Let thy eternal truths, we pray,
Dwell richly in each heart,
That from the safe and narrow way
We never may depart.

Anon.

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TO BE TREMBLED AT.

Ezra ix. 4; x. 3. Isaiah lxvi. 2, 5.

Say, Christian, would'st thou thrive
In knowledge of thy Lord?
Against no Scripture ever strive,
But tremble at his word.

Hart.

TO BE APPEALED TO AS A TEST.

Isaiah viii. 20. Rom. iv. 3. Gal. iv. 30.

O worthy gift of heavenly love to man!
Bless'd exposition of salvation's plan!
By truth confirm'd through each important line,
A revelation of the will Divine!
The rule to which our stubborn hearts should bend,
The rich man's monitor, the poor man's friend.

H. Selwyn.

MAKE WISE.

Deut. iv. 6. Psalm xix. 7; cxix. 98, 99. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

The men that keep thy law with care,
And meditate thy word,
Grow wiser than their teachers are,
And better know the Lord.

Watts.

A MEANS OF RESISTING SIN.

Psalm xvii. 4; xxxvii. 31; cxix. 11. Matt. iv. 3—11.
Ephes. vi. 17. 1 John ii. 14.

Here is the spring where waters flow
To quench our heat of sin;
Here is the tree where truth doth grow,
To lead our lives therein.

Anon.

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ENLIGHTEN.

Psalm xix. 8; cxix. 105, 130. Prov. vi. 23.

It is the one true light,
That when all other lamps grow dim,
Shall never burn less purely bright,
Nor lead astray from Him.

E. Taylor.

GIVE COMFORT.

Psalm cxix. 50, 52, 82. Rom. xv. 4.

The Scripture is the only cure of woe;
That field of promise, how it flings abroad
Its odour o'er the Christian's thorny road!
The soul reposing in assured belief,
Feels herself happy amidst all her grief,
Forgets her labour as she toils along,
Weeps tears of joy, and bursts into a song.

Cowper.

GIVE HOPE.

Psalm cxix. 49, 74, 81, 114, 147; cxxx. 5. Rom. xv. 4.

When nature sinks, and spirits droop,
Thy promises of grace
Are pillars to support my hope,
And there I write thy praise.

Watts.

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JOY.

Psalm i. 2; xix. 8; cxix. 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 111, 174. Jer. xv. 16.

What are the mines of shining wealth,
The strength of youth, the bloom of health,—
What are all joys compared with those
Thine everlasting word bestows?

Cowper.

CHRIST IS THE SUBJECT OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Luke xxiv. 27. John i. 45; v. 39; xx. 31. Acts x. 43. Rev. xix. 10.

The mirror which reflects Immanuel's face,
And shows me Calvary where he spilt his blood,
And made atonement for his people's sins;
Its doctrines, precepts, promises I love:
Its threatenings, faith descries, nail'd to the cross
Of Him who lov'd and gave himself for me,
The scope, the theme, the subject, and the end
Of revelation, pure, sublime, complete.

J. B. Crowest.

THEY ENDURE FOR EVER.

Psalm cxix. 89, 152. Isaiah xl. 8. Mark xiii. 31. 1 Pet. i. 25.

Though heaven and earth shall pass away,
The words of prophecy are sure,
Unchangeable amidst decay,
And pure as God himself is pure.

J. Montgomery.

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REWARD IN OBSERVING WHAT THEY TEACH.

Psalm xix. 11; cxii. 1; cxix. 165. Prov. iii. 1, 2; xiii. 13; xxix. 18. Luke xi. 28. John xiii. 17. Rev. i. 3.

Great is their peace who love thy law;
How firm their souls abide!
Nor can a bold temptation draw
Their steady feet aside.

Then shall my heart have inward joy,
And keep my face from shame,
When all thy statutes I obey,
And honour all thy name.

Watts.

THEIR SAVING AND SANCTIFYING EFFICACY.

Psalm xix. 7; cxix. 9. John xvii. 17. Acts xiii. 26; xx. 32. Rom. i. 16. 1 Cor. xv. 2. Ephes. i. 13. 1 Thess. ii. 13. James i. 21. 1 Peter i. 23.

Thy word, Almighty Lord,
Where'er it enters in,
Is sharper than a two-edg'd sword
To slay the man of sin.

Thy word is power and life;
It bids confusion cease,
And changes envy, hatred, strife,
To love, and joy, and peace.

J. Montgomery.

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ETERNAL LIFE TO BE FOUND THEREIN.

John v. 39. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

Say, wouldst thou live? This hallowed page shall tell
Where life's best joys and holiest pleasures dwell;
Say, must thou die? Then prize this sacred lore
That points to worlds where death will reign no more.
Living or dying, this shall soothe all pain,
Teaching, "To live is Christ, to die is gain."

Anon.

DIVINE TEACHING NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

Psalm cxix. 18. Luke xxiv. 45. Acts xvi. 14. 1 Cor. ii. 13.

This book itself is sealed to all but those
Who, taught of God, its heavenly pages scan;
The Spirit only doth its truths disclose,
And show the humbled soul the great Redeemer's plan.

T. Walker.

DANGER OF NOT BELIEVING THEM.

2 Chron. xxxvi. 16. Neh. ix. 26, 27, 30. Prov. xiii. 13; xxviii. 9. Isaiah v. 24. Jer. vi. 10, 11; vii. 13, 14; viii. 9. John xii. 48. 2 Cor. ii. 16.

Within this awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries;
Happiest they of human race
To whom their God has given the grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray;
To lift the latch, to force the way:
And better had they ne'er been born,
Than read to doubt, or read to scorn.

Sir Walter Scott.

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NOT TO BE ADDED TO, OR DIMINISHED FROM.

Deut. iv. 2; xii. 32. Prov. xxx. 6. Rev. xxii. 18, 19.

Whoe'er to these shall add alloy,
Or take one sacred fragment thence,
Them and their works will God destroy,
His arm shall be his truth's defence.

J. Montgomery.

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THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

THERE IS BUT ONE GOD.

Exod. xx. 3. Deut. iv. 35, 39; v. 7; vi. 4; xxxii. 39. Isaiah xxxvii. 16; xliii. 10; xliv. 6, 8; xlv. 5. John xvii. 3, 22. 1 Cor. viii. 4, 6. Ephes. iv. 6. 1 Tim. ii. 5.

Though reason gives not finite man
Divine infinitude to scan,
Yet man may his Creator own,
May bow before a Saviour's throne;
The Comforter with awe receive;
Their true divinity believe;
And while he chants the Father's love,
Who sends the Spirit from above
To win dominion for the Son,
With joy confess that God is One.

Barton.

GOD IS A SPIRIT, AND INVISIBLE.

Exod. xxxiii. 20. John i. 18; iv. 24; v. 37; vi. 46. Col. i. 15. 1 Tim. i. 17; vi. 16. Heb. xi. 27. 1 John iv. 12.

Thou neither canst be felt nor seen;
Thou art a Spirit pure;
Thou from eternity hast been,
And always shalt endure.

C. Wesley

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OMNIPOTENT.

Gen. xvii. 1; xviii. 14. Deut. iii. 24; xxxii. 39. 1 Sam. xiv. 6. Job xlii. 2. Psalm lxxxix. 13. Jer. x. 12; xxxii. 17. Dan. iii. 17. Mark x. 27. Rom. i. 20. Ephes. iii. 20, 21. Rev. xix. 6.

Thy arm of might, most mighty King,
Both rocks and hearts doth break;
My God, thou canst do every thing,
But what should show thee weak!

Anon.

OMNISCIENT.

1 Sam. xvi. 7. 1 Kings viii. 39. 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. Job xxvi. 6; xxviii. 10; xxxiv. 21; xlii. 2. Psalm xliv. 21; xc. 8; xciv. 9, 11; cxxxix. 1—12. Prov. v. 21; xv. 3, 11. Jer. xvi. 17; xvii. 10; xxxii. 19. Ezek. xi. 5. Matt. vi. 4, 8; x. 29. Luke xvi. 15. Acts xv. 8, 18. Heb. iv. 13. Rev. ii. 23.

None ever yet impeded what He wrought,
None bars Him out from his most secret thought;
Darkness itself before his eye is light,
And hell's close mischief naked in his sight.

Cowper.

OMNIPRESENT.

Gen. xvi. 13. 1 Kings viii. 27. Job xxviii. 10, 11; xxxiv. 21, 22. Psalm cxxxix. 7, 12. Prov. xv. 11. Isaiah lxvi. 1. Jer. xxiii. 24. Dan. ii. 22. Amos ix. 2, 3. Acts xvii. 24, 27.

Should fate command me to the farthest verge
Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,
Rivers unknown to song; where first the sun

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Gilds Indian mountains, or his setting beam
Flames on the Atlantic isles, 'tis nought to me,
Since God is ever present, ever felt,
In the void waste, as in the city full;
And where He vital breathes, there must be joy.

Thomson.

WISE.

Job ix. 4. Psalm civ. 24. Prov. iii. 19. Isaiah xxviii. 29. Jer. x. 12. Rom. xi. 33; xvi. 27. Ephes. iii. 10. 1 Tim. i. 17. Jude 25.

Thy wisdom which both makes and mends,
We ever must admire;
Creation all our wit transcends,
Redemption rises higher.

Anon.

TRUE.

Num. xxiii. 19. Deut. xxxii. 4. 1 Sam. xv. 29. 2 Sam. vii. 28. Psalm xix. 9; cxi. 8; cxlvi. 6. John vii. 28. 2 Cor. i. 18. Rev. xv. 3.

Lord, "Thou art true;" and, oh! the joy,
To turn from other words to thine;
To dig the gold without alloy
From truth's unfathomable mine;
To escape the tempest's fitful shocks,
And anchor 'midst th' eternal rocks!

J. W. Cunningham.

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FAITHFUL.

Deut. vii. 9. Psalm xxxvi. 5; lxxxix. 5, 33; cxix. 90. Isaiah xxv. 1; xlix. 7. Lam. iii. 23. 1 Cor. i. 9; x. 13. 1 Thess. v. 24. 2 Thess. iii. 3. 2 Tim. ii. 13. Heb. x. 23. 1 Peter iv. 19.

My never-ceasing songs shall show
  The mercies of the Lord,
And make succeeding ages know
  How faithful is his word.

The sacred truths his lips pronounce
  Shall firm as heav'n endure;
And if He speak a promise once,
  Th' eternal grace is sure.

Watts.

HOLY.

Exod. xv. 11. Levit. xi. 44, 45; xix. 2. Josh. xxiv. 19. 1 Sam. ii. 2; vi. 20. Psalm xxii. 3; xcix. 9; cxi. 9; cxlv. 17. Isaiah v. 16; vi. 3. Hab. i. 12, 13. Luke i. 49. John xvii. 11. 1 Peter i. 15, 16. Rev. iv. 8; xv. 4.

Most pure and holy are thine eyes,
  Most holy is thy name;
Thy saints, and laws, and penalties,
  Thy holiness proclaim.

Anon.

JUST.

Gen. xviii. 25. Deut. xxxii. 4. Job xxxiv. 12, 17. Ps. lxxxix. 14. Isaiah xlv. 21. Jer. ix. 24. Zeph. iii. 5. Acts xvii. 31. Heb. vi. 10. 1 John i. 9. Rev. xv. 3; xvi. 7.

In love immense, inviolably just!
Thou, rather than thy justice should be stain'd,
Didst stain the cross; and work of wonders far
The greatest, that thy dearest far might bleed.

Young.

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GOOD.

Exod. xxxiv. 6. 2 Chron. xxx. 18. Psalm xxxi. 19; lii. 1; lxxxvi. 5; cxix. 68; cxlv. 9. Zech. ix. 17. Matt. xix. 17. Rom. ii. 4; xi. 22.

God is good! each perfumed flower,
  The smiling fields, the dark green wood,
The insect fluttering for an hour,—
  All things proclaim that "God is good."

The moon that walks in brightness says
  That "God is good;" and man enducd
With power to speak his Maker's praise,
  Should still repeat that "God is good."

E. L. C.

MERCIFUL.

Exod. xxxiv. 6. Deut. iv. 31. 2 Chron. xxx. 9. Neh. ix. 17. Psalm xxv. 10; ciii. 8, 11, 17; cvii. 1. Jer. iii. 12. Dan. ix. 9. Joel ii. 13. Jonah iv. 2. Micah vii. 18. Luke i. 78. Rom. xii. 1; xv. 9. 2 Cor. i. 3. Ephes. ii. 4, 7. James v. 11.

Had not the milder hand of mercy broke
The furious violence of that fatal stroke
Offended justice struck, we had been quite
Lost in the shadow of eternal night.
Thy mercy, Lord, is like the morning sun,
Whose beams undo what sable night hath done;
Or, like a stream, the current of whose course,
Restrained awhile, runs with a swifter force.

Quarles.

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ETERNAL.

Gen. i. 1. Deut. xxxii. 40; xxxiii. 27. Psalm xc. 2. cii. 25—27; cxxxv. 13. Isaiah xl. 28; xliv. 6; xlviii. 12; lvii. 15. Jer. x. 10. Lam. v. 19. Hab. i. 12. Rom. xvi. 26. 1 Tim. i. 17. Rev. i. 17, 18.

The life of man
Is summ'd in birthdays and in sepulchres;
But the Eternal God had no beginning;
He hath no end.

Kirke White.

UNCHANGEABLE.

Num. xxiii. 19. Job xxiii. 13. Psalm cii. 27. Mal. iii. 6. Rom. xi. 29. Heb. vi. 17, 18. James i. 17.

Changer of all things, yet immutable,
Before and after all, the first and last,
That moving all, is yet immoveable.

G. Fletcher.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

Job v. 9; ix. 10; xi. 7; xxxvi. 26; xxxvii. 5, 23. Psalm lxxvii. 19; cxlv. 3; cxlvii. 5. Isaiah xl. 28. Matt. xi. 27. Rom. xi. 33, 34.

Being above all beings! Three in One!
Whom none can comprehend, and none explore;
Who fill'st existence with thyself alone:
Embracing all—supporting, ruling o'er—
Being whom we call God, and know no more!
In its sublime research, philosophy
May measure out the ocean deep—may count
The sands or the sun's rays; but, God! for thee
There is no weight nor measure: none can mount

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Up to thy mysteries; reason's brightest spark,
Though kindled by thy light, in vain would try
To trace thy counsels, infinite and dark!
And thought is lost e'er thought can soar so high,
E'en like past moments in eternity.

Russian Anthology.

LOVE.

Jer. xxxi. 3. John iii. 16. Rom. v. 8; viii. 39. Ephes. ii. 4. 2 Thess. ii. 16. 1 John iii. 16; iv. 8—12, 16.

By various names we thy perfections call,
But pure unfathom'd love, exhausts them all;
By love all things were made, and are sustain'd,
Love all things to allure man's love ordain'd;
Love, vengeance from lapsed human race suspends,
Love our salvation, when provoked, intends;
Love, Lord, thy infinite perfections join'd
Into all forms of love to save mankind;
They all are love, love only is their aim,
My verse shall love, and hymn thee by that name.

Bishop Kenn.

THE MAJESTY, GREATNESS, AND GLORY OF GOD.

Exod. xv. 11, 12; xxiv. 10, 17. Job ix. 4, 10; xxvi. 6, 14; xxxvii. 22. Psalm xviii. 7—15; xxix. 3—9; xlvii. 2, 5; xciii. 1, 4; xcvii. 1—6; civ. 2; cxlv. 5, 12. Isaiah ii. 19; xxx. 30; xl. 12, 15, 22. Jer. x. 10, 13. Dan. vii. 9, 10. Hab. iii. 3—16. Matt. x. 28. 1 Tim. i. 17.

There is a Power all other powers above,
Whose name is goodness, and his nature love;
Who call'd the infant universe to light,
From central nothing, and circumfluent night.

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On his great providence all worlds depend,
As trembling atoms to their centre tend;
In nature's face his glory stands confess'd,
She wears His sacred image on her breast:
His Spirit breathes in every living soul;
His bounty feeds, his presence fills the whole;
Though seen, invisible, though felt, unknown,
All that exist, exist in Him alone.
But who the wonders of his hand can trace,
Through the dread ocean of unfathom'd space?
When from the shore we lift our wondering eyes,
Where boundless scenes of Godlike grandeur rise,
Like sparkling atoms in the noon-tide rays,
Worlds, stars, and suns, and universes blaze!
Yet these transcendant monuments that shine,
Eternal miracles of skill divine—
These, and ten thousand more, are only still
The shadow of his power, the transcript of his will.

J. Montgomery.

THE SUPERIORITY OF GOD TO IDOLS.

1 Sam. v. 1—7. 1 Kings xviii. 21—39. Psalm xcvi. 5. Isaiah xli. 21—24; xliv. 9—28; xlv. 20—22; xlvi. 5—11. Jer. x. 11—16; xiv. 22; 1 Cor. viii. 4.

Who is like to thee, O Lord!
Among gods by man ador'd?
Who like thee can save and bless,
Glorious still in holiness?

Fearful yet in praises found,
Doing wonders all around,
Gods that have been or shall be,
Never can be named with Thee.

Barton.

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GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.

Gen. i. 1. Neh. ix. 6. Psalm xxxiii. 6; cii. 25, 26; cxlviii. 5. Isaiah xl. 28; xlii. 5; xliii. 15; xliv. 24; xlv. 7; xlviii. 13. Amos iv. 13; v. 8. Acts xvii. 24. Eph. iii. 9. Col. i. 16, 17. Heb. i. 10, 12; iii. 4. Rev. iv. 11; x. 5, 6.

Here finished he, and all that he had made
View'd, and behold, all was entirely good;
So even and morn accomplished the sixth day;
Yet not till the Creator, from his work
Desisting, though unwearied, up return'd,
Up to the heav'n of heav'ns, his high abode;
Thence to behold this new-created world,
Th' addition of his empire, how it show'd
In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair.
Answering his great idea, up he rode,
Follow'd with acclamation and the sound
Symphonious of ten thousand harps that tuned
Angelic harmonies; the earth, the air,
Resounded—
The heavens and all the constellations rang,
The planets in their stations listening stood,
While the bright pomp ascended jubilant.
"Open, ye everlasting gates," they sang,
"Open, ye heavens, your everlasting doors; let in
The great Creator, from his work return'd
Magnificent, his six days' work, a world."

Milton.

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THE EXISTENCE OF GOD IS MANIFESTED BY THE WORKS OF CREATION.

Psalm viii. 1, 3; xix. 1—3; lxxv. 1. Acts xiv. 17; xvii. 24, 27, 28. Rom. i. 20.

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens—a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim;
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
Doth his Creator's power display;
And publishes to every land,
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale;
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What, though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
What, though no real voice nor sound
Amidst their radiant orbs be found;
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is Divine."

Addison.

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THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

1 Chron. xxix. 12. Neh. ix. 6. Job v. 6, 10; xxxviii. 41. Psalm lxv. 9; lxxv. 6, 7; cv. 13—15; cxxvii. 1. Prov. xx. 24. Eccles. ix. 1. Jer. x. 23. Dan. ii. 21. Mat. vi. 26, 30; x. 29, 30. Acts xvii. 28.

Unseen, but felt, thine interposed control
Works in each atom, and pervades the whole;
Expands the blossom, and erects the tree,
Conducts each vapour, and commands each sea,
Beams in each ray, bids whirlwinds be unfurl'd,
Unrolls the thunder, and upheaves a world!
Yet not alone created realms engage
Thy faultless wisdom, grand primeval Sage!
For all the thronging woes to life allied
Thy mercy tempers, and thy cares provide.
What scenes are witnessed by thy watchful eye!
What millions waft to thee the prayer and sigh!
Some gaily vanish to an unfear'd grave,
Fleet as the sun-flash o'er the summer wave;
Some wear out life in smiles, and some in tears,
Some dare with hope, while others droop with fears;
The vagrant's roaming in his tatter'd vest,
The babe is sleeping on its mother's breast;
The captive mutt'ring o'er his rust-worn chain,
The widow weeping for her lord again,
While many a mourner shuts his languid eye
To dream of heaven, and view it ere he die;
And yet, no sigh can swell, no tear-drop fall,
But Thou wilt see, and guide, and solace all!

R. Montgomery.

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THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.

Exod. ix. 16. Isaiah xliv. 28; xlv. 1—5; lxiv. 8. Jer. xviii. 6—10. Ezek. xvi. 6, 8. Matt. xx. 15. Luke iv. 25—27. Rom. ix. 11—21.

The daring worm who lifts his puny arm
Against Jehovah's sovereignty, attempts
No less than that which hurl'd from heaven above,
Apostate angels to the lowest hell!
A King, and not to reign! preposterous thought!
A God! and not a King! strange Deity!
Such are the pagan gods. Such is not mine.
I own, adore, and love the mighty God
Whose will controls all worlds, whose high decrees
Fix bounds to time, and destiny to souls.
He took my nature, guilt, and shame, unask'd;
And gave me righteousness and life, unsought;
He bows, he melts, he hardens whom he will,
Nor of his matters gives account to man.

J. Irons.

GOD DISPOSES OF ALL THINGS AT HIS PLEASURE.

Deut. viii. 18; xxxii. 39. 1 Sam. ii. 7, 8. 1 Chron. xxix. 12. 2 Chron. i. 12. Job i. 21; ix. 12. Psalm lxxv. 7; cxv. 3; cxxxv. 6. Prov. xvi. 33. Jer. x. 23; xxvii. 5. Dan. ii. 21; iv. 17, 35. Matt. xi. 26.

Know then that heavenly wisdom on this ball
Creates, gives birth to, guides, consummates all;
That, while laborious and quick-thoughted man
Snuffs up the praise of what he seems to plan,
He first conceives, then perfects his design,
As a mere instrument in hands divine;

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Blind to the working of that secret Power
That balances the wings of every hour,
The busy trifler dreams himself alone,
Frames many a purpose, and God works his own.

Cowper.

GOD PRODUCES GOOD FROM THE EVIL DESIGNS OF MEN.

Gen. xlv. 8; l. 20. Exod. ix. 16. Job v. 12, 13. Psalm lxxvi. 10. Prov. xix. 21.

From seeming evil still educing good,
And better thence again, and better still,
In infinite progression.

Thomson.

A TRINITY OF PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD.

Num. vi. 24—26. Psalm xxxiii. 6. Isaiah xxxiii. 22; xlviii. 16, 17. Matt. iii. 16, 17; xxviii. 19. John xiv. 26; xv. 26; xvi. 13—15. Acts ii. 32, 33. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. Eph. ii. 18. 2 Thess. iii. 5. Heb. ix. 14. 1 Peter i. 2. 1 John v. 7. Jude 20, 21. Rev. i. 4—6.

Hail! holy, holy, holy Lord!
Whom One in Three we know;
By all the heavenly host ador'd,
By all thy church below.

One undivided Trinity
With triumph we proclaim;
The universe is full of Thee,
And speaks thy glorious name.

Thee, holy Father, we confess;
Thee, holy Son, adore;
Thee, Spirit of truth and holiness,
We worship evermore.

C. Wesley.

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* THE TRINITY IN UNITY.

THE TRINITY IN UNITY IS THE ONE LORD, THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD.

Isaiah xliv. 24. John i. 1, 3. Job xxvi. 13.

THE TRINITY IN UNITY IS THE ONE SUPREME BEING OR NATURE; DISTINGUISHED FROM ALL OTHER BEINGS BY THE NAME JEHOVAH.

For the Scripture gives us the following position :—

Deut. vi. 4. Psalm lxxxiii. 18.

Yet Christ is Jehovah.—Jer. xxiii. 6.
And the Spirit also.—Ezek. viii. 1, 3.

THE TRINITY IN UNITY IS THE LORD ABSOLUTELY SO CALLED.

Rom. x. 13. Luke ii. 11. 2 Cor. iii. 18.

IS THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

Matt. xv. 31. Luke i. 16, 17. 2 Sam. xxiii. 2, 3.

THE DIVINE LAW, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE AUTHORITY WHEREUPON IT IS FOUNDED, IS THAT OF A TRINITY IN UNITY.

Rom. vii. 22. Gal. vi. 2. Rom. viii. 2.

THE LAW BEING DERIVED FROM THE UNDIVIDED AUTHORITY OF FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT, EVERY BREACH OF IT IS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE TRINITY.

Therefore it is written—

Deut. vi. 16. 1 Cor. x. 9. Acts v. 9.

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* From Jones On the Trinity.

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THE MIND AND WILL OF GOD IS THE MIND AND WILL OF A TRINITY IN UNITY.

THE MIND OF GOD.

1 Cor. ii. 16. Rom. viii. 27.

THE WILL OF GOD.

1 Thess. iv. 3. Acts xxii. 14, with Acts ix. 15. 2 Pet. i. 21.

THE POWER OF GOD IS THE POWER OF A TRINITY IN UNITY.

Eph. iii. 7. 2 Cor. xii. 9. Rom. xv. 19.

THE TRINITY IN UNITY IS ETERNAL.

Rom. xvi. 26. Heb. xiii. 8; ix. 14.

IS TRUE.

John vii. 28. Rev. iii. 7. 1 John v. 6.

IS HOLY.

Rev. xv. 4. Acts iii. 14. Rom. i. 4.

IS OMNIPRESENT.

Jer. xxiii. 24. Eph. i. 23. Psalm cxxxix. 7, 8.

IS OMNIPOTENT.

Gen. xvii. 1. Matt. xxviii. 18. Job xxxiii. 4.

IS OMNISCIENT.

1 Kings viii. 39. John ii. 24. 1 Cor. ii. 11.

IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.

Deut. xxx. 20. Col. iii. 4. Rom. viii. 10.

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MADE ALL MANKIND.

Psalm c. 3. John i. 3. Job xxxiii. 4.

QUICKENS THE DEAD.

John v. 21; vi. 63.

INSTRUCT US IN DIVINE KNOWLEDGE.

John vi. 45. Gal. i. 12. John xiv. 26.

HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS.

1 John i. 3. 2 Cor. xiii. 14.

ARE SPIRITUALLY PRESENT IN THE ELECT.

1 Cor. xiv. 25. 2 Cor. xiii. 5. John xiv. 17.

REVEAL TO US THE DIVINE WILL.

Phil. iii. 15. Gal. i. 12. Luke ii. 26.

RAISED THE BODY OF CHRIST FROM THE GRAVE.

1 Cor. vi. 14. John ii. 19. 1 Peter iii. 18.

CONDUCT THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Isaiah xlviii. 17. John x. 3. Rom. viii. 14.

GAVE A COMMISSION AND AUTHORITY TO THE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

2 Cor. iii. 5, 6. 1 Tim. i. 12. Acts xx. 28.

SANCTIFY THE ELECT.

Jude 1. Heb. ii. 11. Rom. xv. 16.

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PERFORM ALL SPIRITUAL AND DIVINE OPERATIONS.

1 Cor. xii. 6, 11. Col. iii. 11.

Eternal hallelujahs
Be to the Father given,
Who loved his own
Ere time begun,
And mark'd them out for heav'n.

Anthems of equal glory,
Ascribe we to the Saviour;
Who liv'd and died,
That we, his bride,
Might live with him for ever.

Hail, co-eternal Spirit,
Thy church's new Creator!
The saints he seals,
Their fear dispels,
And sanctifies their nature.

We laud the glorious Triad,
The mystic One in essence;
Till call'd to join
The hosts that shine,
In his immediate presence.

Toplady.

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INTIMATIONS RESPECTING A PLURALITY OF PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD.

Gen. i. 26; xi. 7. 2 Sam. xxiii. 2. Isaiah vi. 3; xli. 22, 23. John i. 1, 2; x. 30. 1 Cor. ii. 10, 11; viii. 6. Col. i. 19. 1 Tim. i. 1. Rev. i. 8—19.

A mystical plurality
We in the Godhead own;
Adoring One in Persons Three,
And Three in nature One.

C. Wesley.

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ATTRIBUTES, NAMES, CHARACTERS, AND TITLES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

ALEHIM OR GOD.

Job xix. 25, 26. Isaiah ix. 6; xliv. 6. Matt. i. 23. John i. 1; xx. 28. Acts xx. 28. Rom. ix. 5. 2 Cor. v. 19, 20. Col. ii. 9. 1 Tim. i. 1; iii. 16. Titus ii. 13. Heb. i. 8; iii. 3, 4. 2 Peter i. 1. 1 John iii. 16; v. 20. Jude 25.

Psalm xxiii. 1.	compared with	1 Peter v. 3, 4.
——— l. 1—4.	.. ..	Acts x. 42. 2 Thess. i. 7, 8. Rev. xx. 12, 13.
——— lxviii. 17, 18	.. ..	Ephes. iv. 8, 10.
——— lxxviii. 56.	.. ..	1 Cor. x. 9.
Isaiah vi. 3, 10.	.. ..	John xii. 39—41.
——— viii. 13, 14.	.. ..	1 Peter ii. 7, 8.
——— xl. 10.	.. ..	Rev. xxii. 12.
——— xliii. 11.	.. ..	2 Peter iii. 18.
——— 25.	.. ..	John viii. 58.
——— 25.	.. ..	Acts v. 31.
——— xliv. 6.	.. ..	Rev. xxii. 13.
——— xlv. 23.	.. ..	Rom. xiv. 10, 11. Phil. ii. 10, 11.
——— 24.	.. ..	2 Cor. xii. 9.
——— 24.	.. ..	Luke xiii. 17.
——— 24, 25.	.. ..	1 Cor. i. 30, 31.
Matt. xx. 23.	.. ..	Rev. iii. 21.

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Luke i. 76. compared with Matt. xi. 10.
John xxi. 16. .. .. .. 1 Pet. v. 2. John x. 16
Rev. xxii. 6. .. .. .. Rev. xxii. 16.

Equal with God Most High
He laid his glory by;
He, the eternal God, was born,
Man with man he deigned to appear,
Object of his nature's scorn,
Pleas'd a servant's form to wear.

C. Wesley.

JEHOVAH (HE WHO IS, AND WAS, AND IS TO COME).

Isaiah xliii. 3, 11; lxiii. 16. Jer. xxiii. 6. Heb. xiii. 8. Rev. i. 8; iv. 8; xi. 17; xvi. 5.

Jehovah God the Son, reveal
The brightness of thy face!
And all thy pardon'd people fill
With plenitude of grace!

Shine forth with all the Deity,
Which dwells in thee alone;
And lift us up thy face to see
On thy eternal throne!

C. Wesley.

ADONAI OR LORD.

Psalm cx. 1. Matt. xxii. 42—44.

Hail! everlasting Lord,
Divine incarnate Word!
Thee, let all my powers confess:
Thee, my latest breath proclaim!
Help, ye angel choirs, to bless,
Shout the loved Immanuel's name!

C. Wesley.

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SABAOTH—LORD OF HOSTS.

Isaiah vi. 5; xliv. 6; xlvii. 4; liv. 5. Jer. x. 16; l. 34; li. 19. John xii. 37—40. Rom. ix. 29. James v. 4.

Great God of Hosts, the dreadful, the glorious!
Come and set up thy kingly throne;
Over the legions of hell victorious,
Rule in the world of thy saints alone!

Milman.

MOST HIGH.

Psalm lxxviii. 35. Dan. vii. 18. Luke i. 76. Acts xvi. 17.

Jesus, the Lord and God Most High,
Maker of all mankind and me!
Me thou hast made to glorify,
To know, and love, and live to thee.

C. Wesley.

OMNIPOTENT.

Psalm xlv. 3. Isaiah ix. 6. Matt. xxviii. 18. Eph. i. 22, 23. Phil. iii. 21. Rev. i. 8, 10—13.

Fixed in omnipotence, he bears
The glories of his Father's name;
Sustains his people's weighty cares,
Through every changing age the same.

Doddridge.

OMNISCIENT.

Matt. ix. 4. Mark ii. 8. Luke v. 22; vi. 8; ix. 47; xi. 17. John ii. 24, 25; iv. 29; vi. 61; xvi. 30; xxi. 17. Rev. ii. 23.

Searcher of hearts, to thee are equal known
The minds of millions as the mind of one.
From whom concealed, no secret thoughts can rise,
Escape thy notice, or deceive thine eyes.

Perronet.

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OMNIPRESENT.

Matt. xviii. 20; xxviii. 20. Eph. i. 23. Col. iii. 11.

Present alike in every place,
Thy Godhead we adore;
Beyond the bounds of time and space,
Thou dwell'st for evermore.

C. Wesley.

ETERNAL.

Prov. viii. 23—30. Isaiah ix. 6. Micah v. 2. John i. 1. Heb. i. 8; xiii. 8.

Without beginning or decline,
Object of faith, and not of sense;
Eternal ages saw him shine,
He shines eternal ages hence.

Cowper.

IMMUTABLE.

Psalm cii. 27. Heb. i. 10—12; xiii. 8.

Through all succeeding ages he
The same hath been, the same shall be;
Immortal radiance gilds his head,
While stars and suns wax old and fade.

The same his power his flock to guard;
The same his bounty to reward;
The same his faithfulness and love
To saints on earth, and saints above.

Doddridge.

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SELF-EXISTENT.

Exod. iii. 14. Isaiah xliv. 6. John v. 26; viii. 58. Rev. i. 8; xxii. 13.

Tell them "I AM," Jehovah said,
To Moses, while earth heard in dread;
And, smitten to the heart,
At once above, beneath, around,
All nature, without voice or sound,
Replied, "O Lord, thou art."

Smart.

CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.

John i. 3, 10. 1 Cor. viii. 6. Col. i. 16. Heb. i. 2, 10; iii. 3, 4. Rev. iv. 11.

Hail, Source of being! hail, Eternal Word!
Sole Source of all things! whose command was heard
At nature's birth, through all the realms of night,
And on her empire poured celestial light:
Whose mandate calmed the elemental strife,
Educing order and imparting life:
Thee would I worship in immortal strains
Like those which echoed through th' ethereal plains,
When choirs seraphic the Creator sang,
And heaven's high arches with the anthems rang.
O could I catch your rapturous notes of praise,
Sons of the morning! whose extatic lays
Proclaimed the Power "who spake and it was done,"
Jehovah's equal and eternal Son.

J. Morell.

TO BE EQUALLY HONOURED WITH THE FATHER.

John v. 23; xv. 23. 1 John ii. 23. 2 John 9.

All ye gods, adore him,
Adore the Son, and honour him as me.

Milton.

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ONE SUBSTANCE WITH THE FATHER.

John x. 30, 38; xii. 45; xiv. 9; xvii. 10, 11.

Beyond compare the Son of God was seen
Most glorious; in him all his Father shone,
Substantially expressed.

Milton.

IMAGE OF GOD.

2 Cor. iv. 4. Col. i. 15. Heb. i. 3.

Begotten Son, divine similitude!
In whose conspicuous countenance without cloud,
Made visible, the Almighty Father shines.

Milton.

CO-ETERNAL WITH THE FATHER.

Prov. viii. 23—30. John i. 1; xvii. 5. Col. i. 17.
Rev. i. 11, 17.

The Lord possess'd me, ere of old
His hand the firmament unroll'd;
Before he bade the mountains stand,
And pour'd the ocean from his hand,
Rejoicing then before his throne,
From everlasting I was known.

J. Montgomery.

CO-EQUAL WITH THE FATHER.

Zech. xiii. 7. Matt. xxviii. 18. John v. 23; xvii. 11.
Phil. ii. 6.

God speaks in heav'n: Let princes, thrones, and powers,
Angels, archangels, mighty seraphim
And all the orders of intelligence
That on my fulness live, and do my will,
Worship as me, so my co-equal Son.

Swain.

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FORGAVE SIN.

Matt. ix. 2, 6. Luke vii. 48. Col. iii. 13.

Sweet was the voice of the Firstborn of heaven,
Though poor His apparel, though earthly His form,
Who said to the mourner, "Thy sins are forgiven!"
"Be whole," to the sick, and "Be still," to the storm.

Heber.

WROUGHT MIRACLES.

John iii. 2; v. 36; x. 25, 38; xiv. 11. Acts ii. 22; x. 38.

In him the powers of hell
Confessed the presence of Immanuel;
A single mandate from his lips assigned
Speech to the dumb and vision to the blind,
Hushed the shrill blast, appeased the foaming wave,
And raised to life the tenants of the grave.

Browne.

TO BE WORSHIPPED.

Psalm xlv. 11; xcvii. 7. Matt. ii. 11. Luke v. 8. John ix. 38. Acts ix. 14. 1 Cor. i. 2. Phil. ii. 9—11. 1 Thess. iii. 11, 12. Heb. i. 6. Rev. v. 12, 13.

All hail the power of Jesus' name,
  Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
  And crown him Lord of all.

Let high-born seraphs tune the lyre,
  And as they tune it fall
Before his face, who formed their choir,
  And crown him Lord of all.

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Ye souls redeemed of Adam's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all.

Perronet.

WONDERFUL.

Judges xiii. 18. (Margin.) Isaiah ix. 6; xxviii. 29. Matt. xxi. 15. Acts ii. 22; iv. 30.

The more of wonderful
Is heard in him, the more we should assent.
Could we conceive him, God he could not be;
Or, he not God, or we could not be men.

Young.

COUNSELLOR.

Psalm xvi. 7; lxxiii. 24. Prov. viii. 14. Isaiah ix. 6; xxviii. 29. Jer. xxxii. 19. Eph. i. 11. Rev. iii. 18.

Be thou my Counsellor,
My Pattern and my Guide,
And through this desert land,
Still keep me by thy side.

Watts.

THE MIGHTY GOD.

Isaiah ix. 6; xlix. 26; lx. 16; lxiii. 1. Jer. xxxii. 18. Matt. xi. 20; xxviii. 18. Luke ix. 43. Ephes. i. 21. Rev. vii. 11, 12.

My song shall bless the Lord of all,
My praise shall climb to his abode;
Thee, Saviour, by that name I call,
The great Supreme, the mighty God.

Cowper.

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EVERLASTING FATHER.

Isaiah ix. 6; lxiii. 16. John xiv. 11. Rev. xxi. 7.

Thou art the Father of the just,
Their souls have life in thee;
Thou art their God omnipotent,
And evermore shall be.

St. Columba.

ANGEL, *i. e.* ONE THAT IS SENT.

Gen. xvi. 10; xlviii. 16. Exod. xxiii. 20, 21. Judges xiii. 15—22. Isaiah lxiii. 9. Matt. iii. 1. John v. 37; vi. 29, 39, 40; vii. 29; viii. 16, 18; xvii. 3.

The Angel of the cov'nant stands
With his commission in his hands,
Sent from his Father's milder throne,
To make his great salvation known.

Watts.

LIGHT.

Psalm xxvii. 1. Isaiah ix. 2; xlii. 6; xlix. 6; lx. 19. Matt. iv. 16. Luke ii. 32. John viii. 12; xii. 46. Eph. v. 14. 1 Tim. vi. 15, 16. 1 John i. 5. Rev. xxi. 23; xxii. 5.

O Jesus dear, Thou lasting light,
Whose brightness doth excel,
The clearness of thy beams send down,
Within my heart to dwell.

W. Hunis, 1585.

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WORD OF THE LORD.

Psalm xxxiii. 6. Isaiah xl. 8. John i. 1, 14. Heb. iv. 12. Rev. xix. 13.

Ere the blue heavens were stretched abroad,
From everlasting was the Word;
With God he was; the Word was God,
And must divinely be adored.

Watts.

ARM OF THE LORD.

Deut. vii. 19. Psalm lxxvii. 15. Isaiah li. 9; liii. 1; lxiii. 12. John xii. 38.

Arm of the Lord! awake, awake,
Thine own immortal strength put on;
With terror clothed, hell's kingdom shake,
And cast thy foes with fury down.

C. Wesley.

GLORY OF THE LORD.

Isaiah xl. 5; lx. 19, 20. Zech. ii. 5; vi. 13. John i. 14. 2 Cor. iii. 18. Heb. i. 3. Jude 24. Rev. xxi. 23.

Who is the King of Glory? who?
The Lord of glorious power possessed;
The King of saints and angels too,
God over all, for ever blessed.

Anon.

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NAME OF THE LORD.

Gen. xvi. 13. Exod. xxiii. 21. Psalm xx. 1. Prov. xviii. 10. Isaiah xlvii. 4. Micah v. 4. Rom. x. 13. 1 Cor. i. 2. 2 Tim. ii. 19.

The name of Jacob's God defends
Better than shields or brazen walls,
He from his sanctuary sends
Succour and strength when Zion calls.

Watts.

SHILOH OR DELIVERER.

Gen. xlix. 10. Psalm xviii. 2. Isaiah lxi. 1. Luke iv. 18. Rom. xi. 26.

Thou my Deliverer art, my God,
My trust is in thy mighty power:
Thou art my shield from foes abroad,
At home my safeguard and my tower.

Tate and Brady.

FIRST AND LAST.

Isaiah xli. 4; xliv. 6; xlviii. 12. Rev. i. 8; ii. 8; xxi. 6; xxii. 13.

Great First and Last! thy blessing give,
And grant us faith, thy gift alone,
To love and praise thee while we live,
And do whate'er thou wouldst have done.

Heber.

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HORN OF SALVATION.

Psalm xviii. 2; cxxxii. 17. Luke i. 69.

There David's Horn shall bud and bloom,
The Branch of glory and renown;
His foes my vengeance shall consume;
Him with eternal years I crown.

J. Montgomery.

ROCK.

Deut. xxxii. 4. 1 Sam. ii. 2. Psalm xviii. 2; lxxviii. 35; xciv. 22. Isaiah viii. 14; xxvi. 4. Rom. ix. 33. 1 Cor. x. 4. 1 Peter ii. 8.

When Israel's tribes were parched with thirst,
Forth from the rock the waters burst;
And all their future journey through
Yielded them drink and gospel too.

In Moses' rod a type they saw
Of his severe and fiery law;
The smitten rock prefigured Him
From whose pierced side all blessings stream.

Newton.

EMMANUEL.

Isaiah vii. 14; viii. 8. Matt. i. 23.

Of all the crowns Jehovah bears,
Salvation is his dearest claim;
That gracious sound well-pleased he hears,
And owns Emmanuel for his name.

Cowper.

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ROOT OF JESSE.

Isaiah xi. 1, 10. Rom. xv. 12. Rev. v. 5; xxii. 16.

From Jesse's root behold a branch arise
Whose sacred flower with fragrance fills the skies:
Th' ethereal Spirit o'er its leaves shall move,
And on its top descends the mystic Dove.

Pope.

STRENGTH.

1 Sam. xv. 29. Psalm cxl. 7. Isaiah lxiii. 1. Joel iii. 16.
2 Cor. xii. 9. Rev. v. 12; xii. 10.

Soldiers of Christ! arise,
And put your armour on;
Strong in the strength which God supplies,
Through his eternal Son.

Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in his mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts,
Is more than conqueror.

C. Wesley.

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Deut. x. 17. 1 Tim. vi. 15. Rev. xvii. 14; xix. 16.

Hark! those bursts of acclamation!
Hark! those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station,
O what joy the sight affords!
Crown him, crown him
King of kings, and Lord of lords!

Anon.

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HUSBAND.

Isaiah liv. 5. Jer. iii. 14; xxxi. 32. Hosea ii. 20. Rom. vii. 4. 2 Cor. xi. 2. Rev. xix. 7; xxi. 9.

Husband of thy church below,
Christ, if thee our Lord we know,
Unto thee betrothed in love,
Always let us faithful prove;
Never rob thee of our heart;
Never give the creature part.

C. Wesley.

REDEEMER.

Job xix. 25. Isaiah xliv. 6; xlvii. 4; liv. 5, 8; lix. 20. Jer. l. 34. Acts xx. 28. Gal. iii. 13. Titus ii. 14. Heb. ix. 12. 1 Peter i. 18, 19. Rev. v. 9.

Redemption! O thou beauteous mystic plan,
Thou salutary source of life to man!
What tongue can speak thy comprehensive grace?
What thought thy depths unfathomable trace?
When lost in sin our ruin'd nature lay,
When awful justice claim'd her righteous pay,
See the mild Saviour bend his pitying eye,
And stop the lightning just prepared to fly.

Boyse.

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PEACE.

Isaiah ix. 6; xxvii. 5; liii. 5; lvii. 19. Micah v. 5. Zech. ix. 9, 10. John xiv. 27; xvi. 33. Acts x. 36. Ephes. ii. 14, 17. Col. i. 20. Heb. vii. 2, 3.

When war on earth suspended
His wild career of woes,
The Prince of Peace descended
A guiltier strife to close!

Vain battles worms were waging
With their Creator God;
He came, and wrath assuaging,
Made peace with his own blood.

J. Montgomery.

DAVID, OR BELOVED.

Isaiah lv. 3. Jer. xxx. 9. Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24; xxxvii. 24. Hosea iii. 5. Acts xiii. 34. Ephes. i. 6.

He, the true David, Israel's King,
Bless'd and belov'd of God,
To save us rebels, dead in sin,
Paid his own dearest blood.

Watts.

PHYSICIAN.

Psalm ciii. 2—4. Isaiah liii. 5. Jer. viii. 22. Matt. viii. 17; ix. 2, 6, 7. Luke ix. 1. 1 Peter ii. 24.

A dying, risen Jesus,
Seen by the eye of faith,
At once from anguish frees us,
And saves the soul from death:

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Come then to this Physician,
His help he'll freely give;
He makes no hard condition,—
'Tis only, Look and live!

Newton.

FOUNTAIN.

Psalm xxxvi. 9. Jer. ii. 13; xvii. 13. Zech. xiii. 1. John iv. 14. Rev. xxi. 6; xxii. 17.

There is a fountain fill'd with blood,
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may we, as vile as he,
Wash all our sins away.

Cowper.

STONE.

Psalm cxviii. 22. Isaiah viii. 14. Dan. ii. 34, 35. Matt. xxi. 42. Acts iv. 11. Rom. ix. 33. Ephes. ii. 20. 1 Peter ii. 6.

Jesus Christ, the Lord's Anointed,
Who his blood for sinners spilt,
Is the Stone by God appointed,
And the church is on Him built;
He delivers
All who trust Him from their guilt.

Newton.

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GOVERNOR.

Psalm ii. 9; xxii. 28. Isaiah ix. 6, 7. Micah v. 2. Matt. ii. 6. Rev. ii. 27.

His the government sublime
Of his own redeeming grace,
Far beyond the bounds of time,
Far beyond the views of space.

Barton.

KEEPER.

Psalm cxxi. 5. Isaiah xxvii. 3. Jer. xxxii. 40. John x. 28; xvii. 12. 2 Tim. i. 12. Jude 1.

Thou who hast kept us to this hour,
O keep us faithful to the end!
When rob'd with majesty and power,
Our Jesus shall from heav'n descend,
His friends and confessors to own,
And seat us on his glorious throne.

C. Wesley.

SERVANT.

Isaiah xlii. 1; xlix. 6; lii. 13; liii. 11. Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24. Zech. iii. 8. Matt. xii. 18. Luke xxii. 27. Phil. ii. 7.

Angels with their eyes pursued Him,
When he left his glorious throne,
With astonishment they viewed Him
Put the form of servant on;
Angels worshipp'd
Him who was on earth unknown.

Newton.

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LAWGIVER.

Isaiah ix. 7; xxxiii. 22. Matt. v. 17, 21, 22, 28, 34. John xv. 12. Gal. vi. 2. James iv. 12.

—— To his new commands
Be strict obedience paid;
O'er all his Father's house he stands
The Sovereign and the Head.

Watts.

ELECT OR CHOSEN.

Isaiah xlii. 1; xliii. 10. Matt. xii. 18. Luke xxiii. 35. 1 Peter ii. 6.

"Christ be my first elect," he said;
Then chose our souls in Christ our head,
Before he gave the mountains birth,
Or laid foundations for the earth.

Watts.

JESUS OR SAVIOUR.

Isaiah xliii. 11; xlix. 26; lx. 16; lxiii. 8. Jer. xiv. 8. Hosea xiii. 4. Matt. i. 21. Luke i. 47; ii. 11; xix. 10. John iv. 42. Acts iv. 12; v. 31. 1 Tim. i. 15. Titus ii. 10, 11, 13. Heb. vii. 25. 2 Peter i. 1; ii. 20; iii. 18.

No name in heav'n pretends to vie with His;
Its awful sound inspires celestial hearts
With blissful rapture, and with reverence deep
Fills their adoring powers. Though utter'd oft,
Chief note in every strain, it never cloys;
Such mines of rich instruction, and such mines
Of rich delight does Jesus' name contain.

Swain.

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LIFE.

Deut. xxx. 20. Psalm xxvii. 1; xxxvi. 9. John i. 4; vi. 57; xi. 25; xiv. 6, 19. Col. iii. 4. 1 John i. 1, 2; v. 12.

Of life the Fountain thou,
I know, I feel it now!
Faint and dead no more I droop:
Thou art in me; thy supplies
Every moment springing up,
Into life eternal rise.

C. Wesley.

STAR.

Num. xxiv. 17. 2 Peter i. 19. Rev. ii. 28; xxii. 16.

Brighter than the rising day,
When the sun in glory shines,
Brighter than the diamond's ray,
Sparkling in Golconda's mines!
Beaming through the clouds of woe,
Smiles in mercy's diadem,
Brighter on the world below,
The Star that rose in Bethlehem.

Anon.

WISDOM.

Prov. iii. 19; viii. 14. Matt. xi. 19. 1 Cor. i. 24, 30. Col. ii. 3. Rev. v. 11, 12.

O Wisdom! whose unfading power
Beside the Eternal stood,
To frame in nature's earliest hour
The land, the sky, the flood.

Heber.

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BRANCH.

Isaiah iv. 2; xi. 1. Jer. xxiii. 5. Zech. iii. 8; vi. 12. Luke i. 78 (margin.)

He is a Tree; the world receives
Salvation from his healing leaves;
That righteous Branch, that fruitful Bough
Is David's Root and Offspring too.

Watts.

SON OF MAN.

Psalm lxxx. 17. Dan. vii. 13. Matt. ix. 6; xxiv. 30; xxvi. 64. Luke ix. 56; xix. 10. John i. 51; v. 27. Rev. i. 13.

See the eternal Son of God
A mortal Son of man;
Dwelling in an earthly clod,
Whom heaven cannot contain.

C. Wesley.

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON.

Psalm ii. 7. John i. 14, 18. Acts xiii. 33. Heb. i. 5; v. 5. 1 John iv. 9.

The Lord, the highest God,
Calls him his only Son;
He bids him rule the lands abroad,
And gives him David's throne.

Watts.

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LAMB OF GOD.

Isaiah liii. 7. John i. 29, 36. Acts viii. 32. 1 Peter i. 19. Rev. v. 6, 8, 12; vii. 14, 17; xii. 11; xiii. 8; xix. 7, 9; xxi. 22, 23, 27; xxii. 3.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on thee were laid;
By Almighty Love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.

Anon.

PRINCE.

Isaiah ix. 6. Ezek. xxxiv. 24. Acts iii. 15; v. 31. Rev. i. 5.

Save us in thy great compassion,
O thou mild, pacific Prince:
Give the knowledge of salvation;
Give the pardon of our sins!

C. Wesley.

MESSIAH, CHRIST, OR ANOINTED.

Psalm ii. 2; xlv. 7. Isaiah lxi. 1. Luke ii. 11; iv. 18. John i. 41; iv. 25, 26. Acts iv. 27; x. 38. Heb. i. 9.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!

J. Montgomery.

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SHEPHERD.

Psalm xxiii. 1; lxxx. 1. Isaiah xl. 11. Ezek. xxxiv. 23. Zech. xiii. 7. John x. 11, 14. Heb. xiii. 20. 1 Peter ii. 25; v. 4.

The Lord is my Shepherd, his hand gently leads me
To fountains of freshness, and streams ever pure;
The Lord is my Shepherd, his love kindly feeds me
In pastures of verdure, from danger secure.

St. Lawrance.

SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Psalm lxxxiv. 11. Mal. iv. 2. Matt. xvii. 2. Heb. i. 3. Rev. i. 16; xxi. 23.

The Sun of Righteousness, whose light
Throws into shade the blazing orb of day;
Whose beams convey the means of life to all
That breathe on earth; for his conspicuous rays
Shed life immortal on immortal minds,
With everlasting beams of heavenly light.

Swain.

TEACHER.

Psalm lxxviii. 2. Isaiah liv. 13; lxi. 1. Matt. vii. 29; xi. 5; xiii. 34, 35. Mark i. 14; iv. 33; vi. 6. Luke iv. 15, 44; viii. 1. John vii. 14; viii. 2.

How sweetly flow'd the gospel's sound
From lips of gentleness and grace,
While listening thousands gather'd round,
And joy and reverence fill'd the place.

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From heaven he came, of heaven he spoke,
To heaven he led his followers' way;
Dark clouds of gloomy night he broke,
Unveiling an immortal day.

"Come, wanderers, to my Father's home,
Come, all ye weary ones, and rest!"
Yes, sacred Teacher, we will come,
Obey thee, love thee, and be blest!

Bowring.

JUST ONE.

Zech. ix. 9. Acts iii. 14; vii. 52; xxii. 14.

Thou Just and Holy One, thou God's eternal Son,
Thou glorious Prince of Peace, my Saviour art alone.

Malan.

HOPE.

Jer. xiv. 8; xvii. 17. Joel iii. 16. Col. i. 27. 1 Tim. i. 1.

Our confidence is fix'd on One,
The Hope of earth, Jehovah's Son;
And ever will we Him confess,
Who is our strength and righteousness.

Cottle

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PROPHET.

Deut. xviii. 15, 18, 19. Isaiah lxi. 1. Matt. xxi. 11. Luke vii. 16; xxiv. 19. John iv. 19; vi. 14; vii. 40. Acts iii. 22, 23; vii. 37.

Great Prophet! let me bless thy name;
By thee the joyful tidings came
Of wrath appeas'd, of sins forgiven,
Of hell subdued, and peace with heaven.

Watts.

PRIEST.

Psalm cx. 4. Zech. vi. 13. Heb. ii. 17; iii. 1; iv. 14; v. 5; vi. 20; vii. 17, 24—26; viii. 1; ix. 11; x. 21.

Jesus, my great High Priest, has died,
I seek no sacrifice beside;
His blood did once for all atone,
And now it pleads before the throne.

Watts.

KING.

Psalm ii. 6; xlv. 6; lxxiv. 12; cxxxii. 11. Isaiah vi. 5; ix. 6, 7; xxiv. 23; xxxiii. 22. Jer. xxiii. 5, 6. Dan. ii. 44. vii. 13, 14. Hosea iii. 5. Zech. vi. 13; ix. 9. Matt. ii. 2; xxvii. 11. Luke i. 32, 33. John i. 49; xviii. 36, 37. 1 Tim. vi. 15. 2 Tim. iv. 1. 2 Peter i. 11. Rev. i. 5; xvii. 14; xix. 16.

Ye subjects of the Lord proclaim
The royal honours of his name,
Jehovah reigns! be all our song;
'Tis he, thy God, O Zion, reigns,
Prepare thy most harmonious strains,
Glad hallelujahs to prolong.

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Ye princes, boast no more your crowns,
But lay the glittering trifles down,
In lowly honour at his feet;
A span your narrow empire bounds,
He reigns beyond created rounds,
In self-sufficient glory great.

Doddridge.

REFUGE.

Deut. xxxiii. 27. Psalm ix. 9; xiv. 6; xlvi. 1, 2, 11; lvii. 1; lix. 16; lxii. 7, 8; cxlii. 4, 5. Isaiah iv. 6; xxv. 4. Jer. xvi. 19. Heb. vi. 18.

Dear Refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise,
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.

Steele.

HIDING PLACE.

Psalm xvii. 8; xxvii. 5; xxxi. 20; xxxii. 7; cxix. 114; cxliii. 9. Isaiah xxxii. 2.

On Him almighty vengeance fell,
That must have sunk a world to hell;
He bore it for his chosen race,
And thus became their Hiding-place.

Should storms of seven-fold thunder roll,
And shake the globe from pole to pole;
No flaming bolt should daunt my face,
For Jesus is my Hiding-place.

Browne.

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CAPTAIN.

Joshua v. 14. 2 Chron. xiii. 12. Heb. ii. 10.

Aspire, my soul, to glorious deeds,
The Captain of salvation leads:
March on, nor fear to win the day,
Though death and hell obstruct the way.

Watts.

TREE OF LIFE.

Gen. ii. 9. Hosea xiv. 8. Rev. ii. 7; xxii. 2, 14.

Son of God, thy blessing grant;
Still supply my every want:
Tree of life, thine influence shed,
With thy sap my spirit feed.

Anon.

HEIR OF ALL THINGS.

Psalm ii. 8. Matt. xxi. 38. Rom. viii. 17. Heb. i. 2.

O Thou, enthroned in filial right,
Above all creature, power, and might;
Whose kingdom shall extend,
Till earth, like heaven, thy name shall fill,
And men, like angels, do thy will:—
Thou, whom I love, but cannot see,
My Lord, my God, look down on me.

J. Montgomery.

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THE TRUTH.

Deut. xxxii. 4. John i. 14; xiv. 6. Eph. iv. 21. 1 John v. 20.

Thou art true, incarnate Lord!
Who didst vouchsafe for man to die,
Thy smile is sure, thy plighted word
No change can falsify.

Wordsworth.

THE WAY.

John xiv. 6. Ephes. ii. 18. Heb. ix. 8; x. 20.

He is a Way—he leads to God;
The path is drawn in lines of blood:
There would I walk with hope and zeal,
Till I arrive at Zion's hill.

Watts.

SON OF GOD.

Matt. xiv. 33; xxvi. 63, 64. Mark i. 1. Luke i. 35. John i. 34; xx. 31. Acts viii. 37. Rom. i. 4. 2 Cor. i. 19. 1 John i. 3, 7; iii. 8, 23; iv. 15; v. 5, 9—13, 20. 2 John 3, 9. Rev. ii. 18.

Oh! Thou didst die for me, thou Son of God!
By thee the throbbing flesh of man was worn;
Thy naked feet the thorns of sorrow trod,
And tempests beat thy homeless head forlorn.
Thou, that were wont to stand
Alone, on God's right hand,
Before the ages were, the Eternal Eldest-born.

Milman.

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FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS.

Rev. i. 5; iii. 14; xix. 11.

ADAM.

Rom. v. 14. 1 Cor. xv. 22, 45.

We sing thine everlasting Son,
Who join'd our nature to his owu;
Adam the second, from the dust
Raises the ruins of the first.

Watts.

IMMORTAL.

1 Tim. i. 17; vi. 16. 2 Tim. i. 10.

BELOVED SON.

Matt. iii. 17; xvii. 5. John iii. 35. Ephes. i. 6. Col. i. 13.
2 Peter i. 17.

On him baptized
Heaven opened, and in likeness of a dove
The Spirit descended, while the Father's voice
From heaven pronounced him his beloved Son.

Milton.

BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD.

Col. i. 15. Rev. iii. 14.

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BREAD OF LIFE.

John vi. 31—35, 48, 51, 58. 1 Cor. x. 3, 17.

Christ is himself the living bread,
Descended from on high,
On which the spirit that is fed,
Shall never, never die.

Barton.

FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD.

Acts xxvi. 23. 1 Cor. xv. 20, 23. Col. i. 18. Rev. i. 5.

LION OF JUDAH.

Rev. v. 5.

AMEN.

2 Cor. i. 20. Rev. iii. 14.

What ground have I to trust and say,
The promise is not vain?
In Christ the promises are Yea,
In him they are Amen.

Erskine.

CHRIST WAS PERFECT MAN.

Matt. iv. 2; viii. 24; xxvi. 38. Luke xix. 41. John i. 14; iv. 6; xi. 35; xii. 27; xix. 28. Rom. i. 3; viii. 3. Gal. iv. 4. Phil. ii. 7. 1 Tim. iii. 16. Heb. ii. 14, 16, 17; iv. 15; v. 7.

Jesus, who passed the angels by,
Assumed our flesh to bleed and die;
And still he makes it his abode,
As man he fills the throne of God.

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Our next of kin, our Brother now,
Is he to whom the angels bow;
They join with us to praise his name,
But we the nearest interest claim.

Newton.

WAS WITHOUT SIN.

Exod. xii. 5. Isaiah liii. 9, 11. John xiv. 30. 2 Cor. v. 21. Heb. iv. 15; vii. 26; ix. 14. 1 Peter i. 19; ii. 22. 1 John iii. 5.

The lamb, the dove, set forth
His perfect innocence,
Whose blood of matchless worth
Should be the soul's defence:
For He who can for sin atone,
Must have no failings of his own.

Cowper.

WAS A VOLUNTARY SACRIFICE.

Matt. xx. 28. John ii. 19; x. 17, 18. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Gal. i. 4; ii. 20. Ephes. v. 2. Phil. ii. 7, 8. 1 Tim. ii. 6. Titus ii. 14. Heb. vii. 27; ix. 14. 1 John iii. 16.

With pitying eyes the Prince of grace
Beheld our helpless grief,
He saw, and (oh, amazing love!)
He came to our relief.

Down from the shining courts above,
With joyful haste he fled;
Entered the grave in mortal flesh,
And dwelt among the dead.

Watts.

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THE ACTIVE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

Psalm xl. 8. Isaiah xlii. 21. Matt. iii. 15; v. 17, 18. Rom. v. 19; x. 4. Heb. x. 8, 9.

The law of God exact he shall fulfil,
Both by obedience and by love, though love
Alone fulfil the law.

Milton.

THE PASSIVE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

Isaiah liii. 6. Gal. iii. 13. Phil. ii. 8. Heb. ii. 9; xii. 2; xiii. 12. 1 Peter ii. 24; iii. 18.

Surely Christ thy griefs hath borne,
Weeping soul, no longer mourn;
View him bleeding on the tree,
Pouring out his life for thee;
There thy every sin he bore,
Weeping soul, lament no more.

See thy God his head bow down,
Hear the Man of sorrows groan;
For thy ransom there condemn'd,
Stripp'd, derided, and blasphem'd;
Bleed the guiltless for th' unclean,
Made an offering for thy sin.

Toplady.

THE PERFECT OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

Dan. ix. 24. John iv. 34; xvii. 4; xix. 30. Heb. v. 9; x. 14

'Tis finished! The Messias dies,
Cut off for sin, but not his own!
Accomplish'd is the sacrifice,
The great redeeming work is done.

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To shed around the starry light
Of precepts pure, example bright;—
To drink Heaven's indignation cup,
His innocent blood to offer up.

T. H. Wightman.

THE TIME OF HIS COMING.

Gen. xlix. 10. Dan. ix. 24, 25. Mal. iii. 1.
Matt. ii. 2—10. Luke ii. 1—5; iii. 1—4.

The kingly sceptre, regal crown,
From Judah's outward tribe have past,
Each relic of his old renown
Low at Emmanuel's footstool cast.

From ancient Israel's race and name
Their early honours far have flown;
Lord, magnify thy Shiloh's name,
O Father, glorify thine own.

Barton.

THAT HE SHOULD BE GOD AND MAN TOGETHER.

Psalm ii. 7; cx. 1. Isaiah ix. 6, 7. Micah v. 2.
Matt. i. 23. John i. 14. Rom. ix. 5. Col. ii. 9. 1 Tim. iii. 16

Mysterious union! how unsearchable!
Yet though a mystery 'tis still a truth
Seen, felt, acknowledg'd, gloried in, in heav'n,
Though earth and hell attempt to prove it false.

Swain.

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FROM WHOM HE WAS TO DESCEND.

Gen. iii. 15; xii. 3; xxvi. 3, 4; xxviii. 14; xlix. 10. Psalm cxxxii. 11. Isaiah xi. 1. Jer. xxiii. 5.

Luke i. 33. John vii. 42. Acts iii. 25; xiii. 22, 23. Rom. xv. 12. Gal. iii. 16; iv. 4, 5. Heb. vii. 14.

Fruit of a virgin's womb,
The promis'd blessing's come;
Christ, the fathers' hope of old;
Christ, the woman's conquering seed,
Christ, the Saviour, long foretold,
Born to bruise the serpent's head.

C. Wesley.

THAT HE SHOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN.

Gen. iii. 15. Isaiah vii. 14.
Matt. i. 22—25. Luke i. 31, 34, 35. Gal. iv. 4.

Rapt into future times, the bard begun,
A virgin shall conceive, a virgin bear a Son!

Pope.

THE PLACE OF HIS BIRTH.

Num. xxiv. 17, 19. Micah v. 2.
Matt. ii. 4—6. Luke ii. 4, 7. John vii. 42.

Through David's city I am led;
Here all around are sleeping;
A light directs to yon poor shed,
Where lonely watch is keeping;
I enter; ah! what glories shine!
This is Emmanuel's earthly shrine,
Messiah's infant temple.

J. Montgomery.

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THAT YOUNG CHILDREN SHOULD BE SLAIN AT HIS BIRTH.

Jer. xxxi. 15.
Matt. ii. 16—18.

Weep, weep not o'er thy children's tomb,
O Rachel! weep not so:
The bud is cropp'd by martyrdom,
The flower in heaven shall blow.

Firstlings of faith, the murderer's knife
Hath miss'd its deadly aim;
The God, for whom they gave their life,
For them to suffer came.

Though evil were their days and few,
Baptized in blood and pain,
He knows them whom they never knew,
And they shall live again.

Heber.

THAT A PROPHET IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIAS, OR ELIJAH, SHOULD BE HIS FORERUNNER, AND SHOULD PREPARE HIS WAY.

Isaiah xl. 3. Mal. iii. 1; iv. 5, 6.
Matt. iii. 1, 3; xi. 14. Luke i. 17.

Hark! a glad voice the lonely desert cheers;
Prepare the way! a God, a God appears!
A God, a God! the vocal hills reply;
The rocks proclaim the approaching Deity.

Pope.

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THAT HE SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED BY PECULIAR GRACE AND WISDOM, AND BY THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON HIM.

Isaiah xi. 2; xlii. 1; lxi. 1.
Matt. iii. 16. Luke iv. 18. John iii. 34.

On Him, in rich effusion pour'd,
My Spirit shall descend;
My truth and judgments He shall show
To earth's remotest end.

Anon.

THAT HE SHOULD CONFIRM HIS DOCTRINE BY GREAT MIRACLES.

Isaiah xxix. 18; xxxii. 3; xxxv. 5, 6; xlii. 7.
Matt. iv. 23; xi. 4, 5; xv. 30. Acts ii. 22.

The Saviour comes! by ancient bards foretold:
Hear him, ye deaf; and all ye blind, behold!
He from thick films shall purge the visual ray,
And on the sightless eyeball pour the day:
'Tis he th' obstructed paths of sound shall clear,
And bid new music charm th' unfolding ear:
The dumb shall sing, the lame his crutch forego,
And leap, exulting, like the bounding roe.

Pope.

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THE MANNER IN WHICH HE SHOULD MAKE HIS PUBLIC ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

Psalm viii. 2. Zech. ix. 9.
Matt. xxi. 4, 5, 7—10.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes Hosanna! cry;
Thine humble beast pursues his road,
With palms and scatter'd garments strew'd!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Milman.

THAT HE SHOULD BE HATED AND PERSECUTED.

Psalm xxii. 6; xxxv. 7, 12; lxix. 4; cix. 2. Isa. xlix. 7.
Luke ii. 34; iv. 28. John vii. 7; viii. 59; x. 39.
xv. 18, 20—25.

Thy birthright in the world was pain and grief;
Thy love's return, ingratitude and hate;
The limbs thou healedst brought thee no relief;
The eyes thou open'dst calmly view'd thy fate;
Thou that wert wont to dwell
In peace tongue cannot tell,
No heart conceives the bliss of thy celestial state.

Milman.

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THAT HE SHOULD BE POOR AND DESPISED.

Psalm xxii. 6; lxix. 7. Isaiah liii. 2, 3.
Luke ix. 58. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Phil. ii. 7, 8.

Jesus himself
Had not a place wherein to lay his head,
So poor was he by choice, who by his grace
Enriches happy millions here on earth,
And furnishes with jewels heaven itself.

Swain.

THAT JEWS AND GENTILES SHOULD CONSPIRE TOGETHER AGAINST HIM.

Psalm ii. 2; xxii. 12.
Matt. xx. 18, 19; xxvii. 1, 2. Luke xxiv. 20. John xviii. 31, 32. Acts iii. 13; iv. 27.

The things so long foretold
By David, are fulfill'd,
When Jews and Gentiles join to slay
Jesus, thine holy Child.

Watts.

THAT HE SHOULD BE BETRAYED BY ONE OF HIS OWN FAMILIAR FRIENDS.

Psalm xli. 9; lv. 12, 13.
Matt. xxvi. 14—16. Luke xxii. 3, 4. John xiii. 18. Acts i. 16.

Whilst here ye sit
In seeming fellowship around my board,
Sharing this social meal, my last on earth,
Doubt not but I can search into your breasts,
And see whose hearts are loyal, whose is false.

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And, mark me well! I fall not by man's wiles;
Not unpredicted is the trait'rous act;
And well I know the wretch whose faithless hand
Dips with me in the dish, shall soon be dyed
With my devoted blood.

Cumberland.

THAT HE SHOULD BE SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, AND THAT THE POTTER'S FIELD SHOULD BE BOUGHT WITH THE PURCHASE-MONEY.

Zech. xi. 12, 13.
Matt. xxvi. 14, 15; xxvii. 3—8. Acts i. 18.

Then on his knees the traitor fell,
Then dash'd to earth the price of blood,
And twice essay'd his tale to tell,
And twice the o'er-mastering fiend withstood.
Faltering at length his accents came,
Words more than anguish, worse than shame,
Oh! I have sinned, I have sold
The guiltless blood for guilty gold.

Dale.

THAT HE SHOULD BE FORSAKEN BY HIS DISCIPLES.

Psalm xxxi. 11; xxxviii. 11; lxxxviii. 18. Zech. xiii. 7.
Matt. xxvi. 31, 56.

Behold the Man! He stands alone,
His foes are ready to devour;
Not one of all his friends will own
Their Master in this trying hour.

Anon.

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THAT HE SHOULD BE ACCUSED BY FALSE WITNESSES.

Psalm xxxv. 11; xxxvii. 12; cix. 2.
Mark xiv. 57, 58.

THAT HE SHOULD NOT PLEAD ON HIS TRIAL.

Psalm xxxviii. 13. Isaiah liii. 7.
Matt. xxvi. 63; xxvii. 12. John xix. 9. 1 Peter ii. 23.

No guile within his mouth is found;
He neither threatens nor complains;
Meek as a lamb for slaughter bound,
Dumb midst his murderers he remains.

J. Montgomery.

THAT HE SHOULD BE INSULTED, MOCKED, SCOURGED, AND SPIT UPON.

Psalm xxii. 7, 8, 12, 13; xxxv. 15, 21; cix. 25.
Isaiah l. 6; liii. 3.
Matt. xxvi. 67; xxvii. 30, 40. John xviii. 22; xix. 1—3.

Thou wert alone in that fierce multitude,
When Crucify him! yell'd the general shout;
No hand to guard thee midst those insults rude,
Nor lips to bless thee in that frantic rout,
Whose lightest whisper'd word
The seraphim had heard,
And adamantine arms from all the heavens broke out.

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They bound thy temples with the twisted thorn;
Thy bruised feet went languid on with pain;
The blood from all thy flesh with scourges torn,
Deepen'd thy robe of mockery's crimson grain,
Whose native vesture bright
Was th' unapproached light,
The sandals of whose foot the rapid hurricane.

Milman.

THAT HE SHOULD BE OFFERED GALL AND VINEGAR TO DRINK.

Psalm lxix. 21.
Luke xxiii. 36, 37. John xix. 29.

The draught of bitterest gall was all the balm
They gave t'enhance thy unslaked burning thirst,
Thou at whose word of peace
Did pain and anguish cease,
And the long buried dead their bonds of slumber burst.

Milman.

THAT HE SHOULD PRAY FOR HIS ENEMIES.

Psalm cix. 4.
Luke xxiii. 34.

Still from his lips no curse has come,
His lofty eye has looked no doom:
No earthquake curse, no angel brand
Crushes the black blaspheming band;
What say those lips by anguish riven?
"God, be my murderers forgiven!"

Croly.

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THAT HIS GARMENTS SHOULD BE DIVIDED, AND LOTS CAST FOR HIS VESTURE.

Psalm xxii. 18.
Matt. xxvii. 35. John xix. 23, 24.

They wound his head, his hands, his feet,
Till streams of blood each other meet;
By lot his garments they divide,
And mock the pangs in which he died.

Watts.

THAT HE SHOULD SUFFER PAIN AND DEATH.

Psalm xxii. 14, 15. Isaiah lii. 14; liii. 5, 8. Dan. ix. 24, 26.
Mark xv. 25. 1 Peter ii. 23, 24; iii. 18; iv. 1.

And that most blessed bodie which was borne
Without all blemish or reproachfull blame,
He freely gave to be both rent and torne
Of cruell hands, who with despightful shame
Revyling him, that them most vile became,
At length him nayled on a gallow-tree,
And slew the Just by most unjust decree.

Spenser.

THAT HIS SIDE SHOULD BE PIERCED, AND ALSO HIS HANDS AND HIS FEET.

Psalm xxii. 16. Zech. xii. 10.
John xix. 34; xx. 27. Rev. i. 7.

View then with grief his wounded, bleeding side,
Pierced by the soldiers, when he groaned and died;
Our mighty Champion in the battle fell,
To save us sinners from the lowest hell.

Clarke.

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THAT A BONE OF HIM SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN.

Exod. xii. 46. Psalm xxxiv. 20.
John xix. 33, 36.

THAT HE SHOULD DIE WITH MALEFACTORS.

Isaiah liii. 9, 12.
Mark xv. 27, 28. Luke xxiii. 39—43.

Two thieves
In bloody fellowship with Christ are hung:
One turns around with sidelong glance of scorn,
To rail and mutter from his parched throat
A hideous jeer; the other, meek and faint,
Dejected cries, "O Christ, remember me,
When thou art in the palace of thy love!"
Divine and glorious answer! "Ere the day
Shall die, in paradise with me thou'lt walk."

R. Montgomery.

THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REMARKABLE DARKNESS AT HIS DEATH.

Amos v. 20; viii. 9.
Matt. xxvii. 45.

What rends the temple's vail? Where is day gone?
How can a general darkness cloud the sun?
Astrologers in vain their skill do try:
Nature must needs be sick when God can die.

T. Randolph, 1605.

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THAT HE SHOULD MAKE HIS GRAVE WITH THE RICH.

Isaiah liii. 9.

Matt. xxvii. 57—60. John xix. 38, 39.

When the Son of God for man was slain,
He sank awhile to rest,
Not the grave's captive, but a garden's guest,
So pure and lovely was his transient tomb.

Barton.

THAT HE WAS CRUCIFIED FOR SIN.

Isaiah liii. 6, 8. Dan. ix. 24, 26.

Rom. iv. 25; vi. 6, 10. 1 Cor. xv. 3. Heb. ix. 28.
1 Peter iii. 18.

To death condemn'd,
A shameful and accurs'd, nail'd to the cross
By his own nation, slain for bringing life;
But to the cross he nails thy enemies,
The law that is against thee, and the sins
Of all mankind with him there crucified,
Never to hurt them more who rightly trust
In this his satisfaction.

Milton.

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THAT HE SHOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD.

Psalm xvi. 9, 10. Isaiah liii. 10.

Acts ii. 24, 31; x. 40, 41; xvii. 31. Rom. i. 4; iv. 25; vi. 9. 1 Cor. xv. 4. 1 Thess. i. 10.

And did he rise?
Hear, O ye nations! hear it, O ye dead!
He rose! He rose! He burst the bars of death.
Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates,
And give the King of glory to come in.

Young.

THAT HE SHOULD ASCEND INTO HEAVEN, AND SIT ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

Psalm xvi. 10, 11; lxviii. 18; cx. 1.

Mark xvi. 19. Acts i. 9; iii. 21. Rom. viii. 34. Ephes. i. 20; iv. 8. Col. iii. 1. Heb. viii. 1; ix. 24; x. 12; xii. 2. 1 Peter iii. 22.

To the heaven of heavens shall he ascend,
With victory triumphing through the air,
Then enter into glory, and resume
His seat at God's right hand, exalted high
Above all names in heaven.

Milton.

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THAT HIS BETRAYER SHOULD DIE SUDDENLY AND MISERABLY.

Psalm lxix. 25; cix. 8.
Matt. xxvii. 3—5. Acts i. 16—20.

He rushed oh whither? Human eye
Saw not the doom'd apostate die;
He fell unpitied, unforgiven,
Outcast alike of earth and heaven.

Dale.

THAT HE SHOULD SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE COMFORTER.

Isaiah xliv. 3. Joel ii. 28.
John xiv. 16, 26; xv. 26; xvi. 7—13. Acts ii. 1—18; iv. 31; x. 44.

From heaven
He to his own a Comforter will send,
The promise of the Father, who shall dwell,
His Spirit within them; and the law of faith,
Working through love, upon their hearts shall write,
To guide them in all truth; and also arm
With spiritual armour, able to resist
Satan's assaults, and quench his fiery darts.

Milton.

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THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH SPOKEN OF BY THE PROPHETS.

Luke xxiv. 27. John i. 45; iv. 25, 26; v. 39, 46; xi. 27. Acts ii. 25, 31; xxvi. 22, 23.

The theme, the first, the last, the holiest theme
Of patriarchs' vision, and of prophets' dream,
The golden thread which ran from age to age,
Reflecting brightness on the sacred page,
The promised Saviour, long and vainly sought,
"Comes to his own,—his own receive him not."

Miss Colthurst.

THAT HE WAS EXPECTED BY THE JEWS AT THE TIME OF HIS COMING.

Mark xv. 43. Luke ii. 25, 38; iii. 15; xxiv. 21. John i. 20—25; vi. 14; x. 24; xi. 27.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus!
Born to set thy people free;
From our sins and fears release us,
Let us find our rest in thee:

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

C. Wesley.

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THAT HE WAS REJECTED BY THE JEWS.

Isaiah liii. 3.
Luke xix. 14. John i. 11. Acts iii. 14, 15. 1 Thess. ii. 15.

Messiah came, of whom the prophets spake;
He came, as promised for his people's sake;
His own received him not; their King they slew:
Behold, his murd'rer is the faithless Jew!

Anon.

THAT HE IS NOT TO BE DENIED.

Matt. x. 33. Mark viii. 38. Luke xii. 9. 2 Tim. ii. 12.
2 John 9.

A Christian is the highest style of man,
And is there who the blessed cross wipes off,
As a foul blot, from his dishonour'd brow?
If angels tremble, 'tis at such a sight;
More struck with grief or wonder, who can tell?

Young.

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ATTRIBUTES, OFFICES, AND TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE SPIRIT IS JEHOVAH.

Deut. vi. 16	compared	with	Acts v. 9.
—— xxxii. 12	..	..	Isaiah lxiii. 11, 12.
Num. xii. 6	..	..	2 Peter i. 21.
1 Sam. xvi. 13	..	..	——— 18.
Isaiah vi. 8, 9	..	..	Acts xxviii. 25, 26.
—— xi. 2	..	..	2 Cor. iii. 17, 18.

Jehovah, God the Spirit, shine,
Father and Son to show;
With bliss ineffable, divine,
Our raptur'd hearts o'erflow.

C. Wesley.

ALEHIM, OR GOD.

Acts v. 3, 4.

Gen. vi. 3	compared	with	1 Peter iii. 20.
Neh. ix. 20	..	..	Matt. xix. 17.
Matt. xii. 28	..	..	Luke xi. 20.
John iii. 5	..	..	John i. 13.
Acts xx. 28	..	..	1 Peter v. 2.

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1 Cor. iii. 16	compared with	2 Cor. vi. 16.	
2 Cor. i. 3.	..	..	Acts ix. 31.
——— 22.	..	..	Ephes. iv. 30.
2 Tim. iii. 16	..	..	2 Peter i. 21.

Spirit of truth, essential God,
  Who didst thy ancient saints inspire,
Shed in their hearts thy love abroad,
  And touch their hallow'd lips with fire;
Our God from all eternity,
World without end we worship thee.

C. Wesley.

LORD.

Isaiah xl. 13; lxi. 1. Ezek. viii. 1—3.

O Spirit of the Lord! prepare
  All the round earth her God to meet.
Breathe thou abroad like morning air,
  Till hearts of stone begin to beat.

J. Montgomery.

MOST HIGH.

Psalm lxxviii. 17 compared with Isaiah lxiii. 10.
Luke i. 32, 35.

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THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Isaiah xl. 13, 14. Luke iii. 22. John xiv. 16, 17, 26; xv. 26; xvi. 7, 8, 13, 14. Acts viii. 29; x. 19; xi. 12; xiii. 2. xvi. 6; xx. 28. Rom. viii. 16, 27; xv. 13. 1 Cor. xii. 11. 1 Tim. iv. 1. Heb. ii. 4. Rev. ii. 7; xiv. 13.

Holy Spirit, bless us here,
While we worship in thy fear;
Touch our lips with holy fire,
Give us all a pure desire.

Without his aid all hopes are vain,
We shall not the victory gain;
With the Holy Spirit's fire
We shall gain our vast desire.

Clarke.

HOLY SPIRIT, OR SPIRIT OF HOLINESS.

Psalm li. 11. Isaiah lxiii. 10. John xiv. 26. Acts vii. 51. Rom. i. 4. Eph. iv. 30. Heb. x. 15. 2 Peter i. 21.

Spirit of holiness,
Let all thy saints adore
Thy sacred energy, and bless
Thine heart-renewing power.

C. Wesley.

PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON.

John xiv. 26; xv. 26; xvi. 7. Gal. iv. 6.

Thou glorious Third! distinct, not separate,
Beaming from Both! with Both incorporate!

Young.

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OMNIPRESENT.

Psalm cxxxix. 7.

Pervading Spirit, whom no eye can trace,
Felt through all time, and working in all space!
Imagination cannot paint that spot,
Around, above, beneath, where Thou art not.

R. Montgomery.

OMNISCIENT.

Acts x. 19. 1 Cor. ii. 11.

Thou know'st my secret thoughts,
Which creatures never knew;
Each action's latent spring,
The end I have in view:
The thickest shades, or darkest night,
Can ne'er exclude thy piercing sight.

Anon.

CREATOR.

Gen. i. 2. Job xxvi. 13; xxxiii. 4. Psalm xxxiii. 6.

Creator Spirit! by whose aid,
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit each expectant mind,
Come, pour thy joys on human kind;
From sin and sorrow set us free,
And make us temples worthy Thee!

Dryden.

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ETERNAL.

Deut. xxxiii. 27, with Heb. ix. 14.

Eternal Spirit! we confess
And sing the wonders of thy grace;
Thy power conveys our blessings down
From God the Father and the Son.

Watts.

COMFORTER.

John xiv. 16, 26; xv. 26. xvi. 7. Acts ix. 31.

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart, and sick in head,
And with doubts disquieted;
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the tempter me pursueth
With the sins of all my youth,
And half damns me with untruth,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

R. Herrick, 1591.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT IS COMPARED TO WATER.

Isaiah xliv. 3. Jer. ii. 13. Ezek. xxxvi. 25. John iv. 10, 14; vii. 37. Rev. xxii. 17.

There is a stream which issues forth
From God's eternal throne,
And from the Lamb a living stream,
Clear as the crystal stone.
This stream doth water Paradise,
It makes the angels sing:
One cordial drop revives my heart,
Hence all my joys do spring.

Anon.

IS COMPARED TO FIRE.

Isaiah vi. 6, 7. Matt. iii. 11. Acts ii. 3. 1 Thess. v. 19.

Eternal Spirit, source of light,
Enliv'ning, consecrating fire,
Descend, and with celestial heat
Our dull, our frozen hearts inspire:
Our souls refine, our dross consume!
Come, condescending Spirit, come.

Whatever guilt and madness dare,
We would not quench the heavenly fire;
Our hearts as fuel we prepare,
Though in the flame we should expire:
Our breasts expand to make thee room:
Come, purifying Spirit, come!

Davies.

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IS COMPARED TO WIND.

Cant. iv. 16. Ezek. xxxvii. 9. John iii. 8. Acts ii. 2.

Man hears the passing wind; its power he knows,
But wists not whence it comes, or where it goes;
Sometimes, in zephyrs soft, it murmurs by,
And sometimes sweeps tempestuous through the sky;
Now scarcely moves a leaf upon the bough,
Uproots the monarch of the forest now;
So is it with God's mighty Spirit, so
He works by secret ways, that none may now;
To all alike, in sovereign mercy given,
He breathes on some the gentlest breath of heaven;
With viewless, irresistible control,
Draws out, by cords of love, the captive soul;
To some, he speaks with startling voice within;
Awakes the dead in trespasses and sin;
Removes the scales, impeding mortal sight,
And bids the deaf by nature, hear aright.
To some, he comes arrayed in terror's form,
Till prostrate laid, and bow'd beneath the storm;
Each cherish'd idol levell'd with the dust,
They mourn for sin, and own that God is just!

Miss Colthurst.

SPIRIT OF LIFE.

Ezek. xxxvii. 14. John vi. 63. Rom. viii. 2, 10. Rev. xi. 11.

Thy Spirit's quickening aid must give
The power to come to Thee;
The life whereby our souls must live,
The light by which we see.

Barton.

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SPIRIT OF WISDOM.

Isaiah xi. 2. 1 Cor. ii. 11. Ephes. i. 17.

SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING.

Job xxxii. 8. Isaiah xi. 2.

SPIRIT OF POWER.

Job xxxiii. 4. Isaiah xi. 2. Micah iii. 8. Luke i. 35; iv. 14; xxiv. 49. Rom. xv. 13, 19. 2 Tim. i. 7.

Thy powerful Spirit shall subdue
  Unconquerable sin;
Cleanse this foul heart, and make it new,
  And write thy law within.

C. Wesley.

SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

Deut. xxxii. 4, with 1 John v. 6. John xiv. 17; xvi. 13.

Spirit of truth, come down,
  Reveal the things of God,
Make Thou to us Christ's Godhead known,
  Apply his precious blood.

J. Montgomery.

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SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

Rom. viii. 9. Gal. iv. 6. Phil. i. 19. 1 Peter i. 11.

Enthron'd on high, Almighty Lord,
Thy Holy Ghost send down!
Fulfil in us thy faithful word,
And all thy mercies crown.

Though on our hearts no tongues of fire
Their wondrous power impart,
Grant, Saviour, what we more desire,
Thy Spirit in our heart.

Humphries.

SPIRIT OF GRACE.

Zech. xii. 10. Heb. x. 29.

Spirit of grace, and health, and power;
Fountain of light and love below;
Abroad thy healing influence shower,
O'er all the nations let it flow.

C. Wesley.

SPIRIT OF ADOPTION.

Rom. viii. 15.

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SPIRIT OF LOVE.

Rom. xv. 30. 2 Tim. i. 7.

Spirit of purity and love!
Descend with comfort from above.
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide,
O'er every thought and wish preside.

Anon.

SPIRIT OF PROMISE.

Luke xxiv. 49. Gal. iii. 14. Ephes. i. 13.

Oh, Source of uncreated light,
The Father's promised Paraclete;
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire,
Our hearts with heavenly love inspire;
Come, and thy sacred unction bring,
To sanctify us while we sing.

Dryden.

SPAKE BY THE PROPHETS.

Neh. ix. 30. Zech. vii. 12. Luke i. 70. Acts vii. 51; xxviii. 25. Heb. i. 1. 1 Peter i. 11. 2 Peter i. 21.

'Twas by an order from the Lord,
The ancient prophets spoke his word;
The Spirit did their tongues inspire,
And warm'd their hearts with heavenly fire.

Watts.

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WROUGHT MIRACLES.

Matt. xii. 28. Acts ii. 3, 4; x. 45, 46. Rom. xv. 19. Heb. ii. 4.

The Spirit
Pour'd first on his apostles, whom he sends
To evangelize the nations, then on all
Baptized, shall them with wondrous gifts endue,
To speak all tongues, and do all miracles,
As did their Lord before them.

Milton.

WAS WORSHIPPED.

Ezek. xxxvii. 9. 2 Thess. iii. 5.
Matt. ix. 38. compared with Acts xiii. 2.
Acts iv. 24, 25. .. .. 2 Peter i. 20, 21:

Let God, who comforts the distress'd,
Let Israel's Consolation hear,
Hear, Holy Ghost, our joint request,
And show Thyself the Comforter,
And swell the unutterable groan,
And breathe our wishes to thy throne.

C. Wesley.

IS GIVEN TO BELIEVERS.

Isaiah lix. 21. Ezek. xxxvi. 27. John vii. 38, 39; xiv. 16, 17, 26. Acts iv. 31; v. 32; vii. 55; ix. 17; xi. 17; xv. 8. Rom. v. 5; viii. 16. 1 Cor. ii. 12; vi. 11; xii. 3. 2 Cor. iii. 18. Gal. iii. 14. 1 Thess. i. 5, 6. 2 Thess. ii. 13. Titus iii. 5, 6. 1 John iv. 13.

"Ask what ye will," 'tis Jesus' word
To all the followers of the Lord;

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He speaks with confidence divine,
" To give the Holy Ghost is mine !"
And thou, who didst to glory go,
Wilt on thy church that gift bestow,
To bless, and sanctify, and seal,
And all our souls for ever fill.

C. Wesley.

TEACHER.

Job xxxvi. 22. Luke xii. 12. John xiv. 26; xvi. 13.
1 Cor. ii. 13. 1 Thess. iv. 9. 1 John ii. 20, 27.

You now must hear my voice no more;
My Father calls me home;
But soon from heaven the Holy Ghost,
Your Comforter shall come.

That heavenly Teacher, sent from God,
Shall your whole soul inspire;
Your minds shall fill with sacred truth,
Your hearts with sacred fire.

Anon.

SANCTIFIER.

Rom. xv. 16. 1 Cor. vi. 11. 2 Thess. ii. 13. 1 Peter i. 2,
(See page 129.)

Refining Fire, go through my heart,
Illuminate my soul;
Scatter thy light through every part,
And sanctify the whole.

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HELPS IN PRAYER.

Zech. xii. 10. Rom. viii. 15, 26, 27. Gal. iv. 6. Eph. vi. 18.

Lend to our infirmities
Living help, which grace supplies;
Thou alone canst teach alway,
What to pray for—how to pray.

Nor alone instruct us how
At the throne of grace to bow;
Far beyond our fervent prayer,
Be thyself our Pleader there.

Barton.

SEALS THE BELIEVER'S REDEMPTION.

Rom. v. 5; viii. 16. 2 Cor. i. 22; v. 5. Ephes. i. 13, 14; iv. 30.

Dost thou not dwell in all the saints,
And seal the heirs of heaven?
When wilt thou banish my complaints,
And show my sins forgiven?

Thou art the earnest of God's love,
The pledge of joys to come;
And thy soft wings, celestial Dove,
Will safe convey me home.

Watts.

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DWELLS IN THE BELIEVER.

John xiv. 17. Rom. viii. 11. 1 Cor. iii. 16; vi. 19. 2 Cor. vi. 16. Ephes. ii. 22. 2 Tim. i. 14. 1 John iii. 24; iv. 13.

His Spirit to us he gave,
And dwells in us we know:
The witness in ourselves we have,
And all its fruits we show.

C. Wesley.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT.

Acts vi. 10. Rom. viii. 15, 16. 1 Cor. ii. 12. 2 Cor. iii. 17. Gal. v. 22, 23. Ephes. v. 9.

When the Holy Spirit makes abode
In the lone desert of a sinner's breast,
We see, but know not whence, the stranger flowers,
That all unbidden blossom on the waste.

New hopes, new wishes, animate the soul,
God's banish'd image is replaced within;
And he whose abject, alienated heart
Once fear'd the punishment, now fears the sin.

C. Fry.

WE SHOULD SEEK FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Psalm xlii. 1; lxiii. 1; cxliii. 6. Luke xi. 13.

Come, blessed Spirit, Source of light,
Whose power and grace are unconfined,
Dispel the gloomy shades of night,
The thicker darkness of the mind.

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Thine inward teachings make us know,
The mysteries of redeeming love,
The emptiness of things below,
And excellence of things above.

Beddome.

WE SHOULD CAREFULLY WATCH HIS SUGGESTIONS.

Isaiah vii. 13; lxiii. 10. Acts vii. 51. Ephes. iv. 30. 1 Thess. v. 19.

Stay, thou insulted Spirit, stay,
Though I have done thee such despite:
Nor cast the sinner quite away,
Nor take thine everlasting flight.

C. Wesley.

BLASPHEMY AGAINST HIM UNPARDONABLE.

Matt. xii. 31.

GENERAL PROMISES OF THE SPIRIT.

Prov. i. 23. Isaiah xliv. 3, 4. Ezek. xxxvi. 27. Joel ii. 28, 29. Matt. iii. 11. Luke xi. 13. John iv. 10. Acts ii. 38, 39. Rev. xxii. 17.

That He, the third
In the eternal Essence, to the prayer
Sincere should come, should come as soon as asked,

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To give faith and repentance, such as God
Accepts, to open the intellectual eyes,
Blinded by sin ; to bend the stubborn will
To God and his commandments;
The wild, rebellious passions to subdue,
To purify the conscience, and to lead
The mind into all truth, and to adorn
With every holy ornament of grace,
And sanctify the whole renewed soul.

Pollok.

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ANGELS.

ANGELS ARE CREATED BEINGS.

John i. 3. Col. i. 16. Heb. i. 2.

His second brood, though not of form so great
Yet full of beautie next he did beget,
An infinite increase of angels bright,
All glistering glorious in their Maker's light.

Spenser.

THEIR NATURE.

2 Sam. xiv. 17, 20. Psalm ciii. 20; civ. 4. Matt. xxv. 31; xxviii. 2, 3. Luke xx. 36. Rev. x. 1; xviii. 1.

He form'd you the spirits you are,
So happy, so noble, so good;
When others sank down in despair,
Confirm'd by his power, ye stood.

Marie de Fleury.

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ARE ELECT.

1 Tim. v. 21.

Bright seraphs dispatch'd from the throne,
Repair to the stations assign'd,
And angels elect are sent down,
To guard the elect of mankind.

Toplady.

ARE IN GREAT NUMBERS.

Deut. xxxiii. 2. Psalm lxviii. 17. Dan. vii. 10. Matt. xxvi. 53. Luke ii. 13. Heb. xii. 22. Rev. v. 11; ix. 16.

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne,
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

Watts.

SURROUND THE THRONE OF GOD, STAND IN HIS IMMEDIATE PRESENCE, AND WORSHIP CONTINUALLY AT HIS FEET.

1 Kings xxii. 19. Psalm lxviii. 17. Isaiah vi. 2. Dan. vii. 10. Matt. xviii. 10. Luke i. 19. Rev. v. 11, 12; vii. 11, 12.

Angel powers the throne surround,
Next the saints in glory they;
Lull'd with the seraphic sound,
They their silent homage pay.

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Prostrate on their face before
God and his Messiah fall;
Then in hymns of praise adore,
Shout the Lamb who died for all.

C. Wesley.

ARE EXTENSIVELY ENGAGED IN GLORIFYING GOD AND CELEBRATING HIS PRAISES.

Neh. ix. 6. Job xxxviii. 7. Psalm ciii. 20, 21; cxlviii. 2. Luke ii. 13, 14. Rev. v. 11, 12; vii. 11, 12.

The angelic hosts, in their inferior heaven,
Hymn to the golden harps his praise sublime;
Repeating loud, "The Lord our God is great,"
In varied harmonies. The glorious sounds
Roll o'er the air serene,—the Æolian spheres,
Harping along their viewless boundaries,
Catch the full note, and cry, "The Lord is great,"
Responding to the seraphim.—O'er all
From orb to orb, to the remotest verge
Of the created world, the sound is borne,
Till the whole universe is full of Him.

Kirke White.

ARE EMPLOYED IN STUDYING THE WORKS OF GOD, AND IN LEARNING FROM THEM HIS PERFECTIONS.

Dan. xii. 6, 7. Luke xv. 10. Ephes. iii. 10. 1 Pet. i. 11, 12.

But what of angels know we? Ask that book,
In which the eyes of angels love to look,

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Desiring through its opening seals to trace
The heights and depths of that transcendant grace,
Which from the Father's bosom sent the Son,
Himself the ransom for a world undone!
Here, with the morning stars when nature sprang,
Those sons of God for joy together sang;
Diviner wonders day by day explored;
Night after night with deeper awe adored;
Till o'er his finished works Jehovah placed
Man, with the stamp of his own image graced;
Ev'n angels paused a moment there to gaze,
Ere burst from all the choir such shouts of praise
As not in heaven, at their own birth was known,
Nor heard when Satan's host was overthrown.

J. Montgomery.

ARE EMPLOYED IN EXECUTING THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD UPON THIS WORLD.

Gen. xix. 1. 2 Sam. xxiv. 16. 2 Kings xix. 35. Acts xii. 23. Rev. viii. 6—13; ix. 1—15; xvi. 1—18.

Strong angels, armed by righteous Providence,
Judgments on guilty nations still dispense;
Pour out their vials of disease, despair,
And death—o'er sun and ocean, earth and air;
Or sound their trumpets, while at every blast,
Plague follows plague, woe treads on woe gone past.

J. Montgomery.

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ARE EMPLOYED IN MINISTERING BLESSINGS TO THE CHILDREN OF GOD IN THIS WORLD.

Gen. xix. 16; xxxii. 1. 1 Kings xix. 5. Psalm xxxiv. 7; xci. 11. Luke i. 19, 26, 27; xxiv. 4, 5. Acts xii. 7. Heb. i. 14. Rev. vii. 2, 3.

Good angels still conduct from age to age,
Salvation's heirs on nature's pilgrimage;
Cherubic sounds, no longer signs of strife,
Now point the way, and keep the tree of life;
Seraphic hands, with coals of living fire
The lips of God's true messengers inspire.
Angels, who see their heavenly Father's face,
Watch o'er his "little ones" with special grace;
Still o'er repenting sinners they rejoice,
Millions of voices blending in one voice.

J. Montgomery.

MINISTERED TO CHRIST.

Psalm xci. 11. Matt. iv. 11; xxviii. 2. Luke ii. 9; xxii. 43.

The heavenly host a charge receive,
While deep attention sits on every ear:
Behold, on yonder globe, my equal Son,
My First-elect, in whom my soul delights,
An helpless infant in his mother's arms!
Go, watch him from the manger to the cross;
Keep him in all his ways, and in your hands
Uphold him, lest at any time his foot
He dash against a stone,—be this your care!

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Cheerful they leave again the realms of light,
And on the wings of swift obedience, down
To earth descend, nor quit their precious charge
One moment, till, a Conqueror array'd
In martial honours, they attend him back,
Through shouting armies, to his seat supreme
At the right hand of Majesty on high.

Swain.

THEIR ACTS PREVIOUS TO, AND AT THE LAST JUDGMENT.

Matt. xiii. 39, 41, 49, 50; xxiv. 31. 1 Thess. iv. 16. 2 Thess. i. 7. Rev. x. 5—7; xi. 15; xiv. 6, 9, 15, 17—19. xvi. 1—4, 8, 10, 12, 17; xvii. 1, 3; xviii. 1, 2, 21; xix. 17; xx. 1—3.

Once more will ye come, rob'd in glory sublime,
In the day of the Lord; at the end of time;
When earth from her lowest foundation shall quake,
When the deep shall be dry, and the dead awake;
Ye will burn the tares as the harvest ye reap,
Divide in a moment the goats from the sheep.

E——.

Behold, a cloud just opening on the view,
Illum'd with dazzling light the ethereal blue!
On its broad breast a mighty angel came,
His eyes were lightning, and his robes of flame.
Lo! every blazing world
Is from its place by hands angelic hurl'd;
O'er all the angel of destruction strides;
His bared right arm the o'erwhelming ruin guides,

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And points its way, while from his left, raised high,
Ten thousand forked lightnings flash and fly;
His waving hairs a flame; his wasting breath
Scatters confusion, pestilence, and death!
The heavens are parched, and scrolled, and swept away,
The falling earth expires with glimmering ray;
Darkness its pall, and for a funeral knell
The dying thunder breathes a deep farewell.
'Tis finished! thus the great archangel cried,
Time heard, and bowed his hoary head, and died.

Anon.

ARE NOT TO BE WORSHIPPED.

Col. ii. 18. Rev. xix. 10; xxii. 8, 9.

SOME ANGELS OF THE SAME RANK AND CHARACTER FELL FROM THEIR FIRST ESTATE.

Luke x. 18. John viii. 44. 2 Peter ii. 4. Jude 6.

But pride, impatient of long-resting peace,
Did puffe them up with greedy bold ambition;
That they 'gan cast their state how to increase
Above the fortune of their first condition,
And sit in God's own seat without commission:
The brightest angel, ev'n the child of light,
Drew millions more against their God to fight.

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The Almighty, seeing their so bold assay,
Kindled the flame of his consuming ire;
And with his onely breath them blew away
From Heaven's hight, to which they did aspyre,
To deepest Hell, and lake of damned fyre,
Where they in darknesse and dread horror dwell,
Hating the happie light from which they fell.

Spenser.

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DOCTRINAL SUBJECTS.

MAN.

THE FIRST ESTATE OF MAN.

Gen. i. 27; v. 1; ix. 6; Psalm viii. 5. Eccles. vii. 29. Ephes. iv. 24. Col. iii. 10.

Man he made of angel form erect,
To hold communion with the heavens above;
And on his soul impress'd His image fair,—
His own similitude of holiness,
Of virtue, truth, and love.

Pollok.

THE FALL OF MAN.

Gen. iii. Eccles. vii. 29. Isaiah xliii. 27. Rom. v. 12, 19. 2 Cor. xi. 3.

Say what cause
Mov'd our grand-parents, in that happy state,
Favour'd of Heaven so highly, to fall off
From their Creator, and transgress his will,
For one restraint, lords of the world besides?
Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?
Th' infernal serpent? He it was, whose guile,
Stirr'd up with envy and revenge, deceiv'd
The mother of mankind.

Milton.

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ORIGINAL SIN.

Gen. v. 3. Job xiv. 4; xv. 14; xxv. 4. Psalm li. 5; lviii. 3. John iii. 6. Rom. v. 12—14. 1 Cor. xv. 49.

Lord, I am vile, conceiv'd in sin,
And born unholy and unclean;
Sprung from the man whose guilty fall
Corrupts the race, and taints us all.

Watts.

ALL HAVE SINNED.

1 Kings viii. 46. Psalm liii. 2, 3; cxxx. 3. Prov. xx. 9. Eccles. vii. 20. Micah vii. 2. Rom. iii. 23; v. 12. Gal. iii. 22. James iii. 2. 1 John i. 8, 9.

We are sinners all by nature,
Lost and ruin'd by the fall;
All agree in this one feature,
We are vile and guilty all.

Watts.

MAN'S NATURE IS UNIVERSALLY CORRUPT.

Gen. vi. 5, 12; viii. 21. Psalm xiv. 1—3. Isaiah i. 5, 6; lxiv. 6. Jer. xiii. 23.

Man of every clime
And hue, of every age and every rank,
Is bad, by nature and by practice bad;
In understanding blind, in will perverse,
In heart corrupt, in every thought and word,

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Imagination, passion, and desire,
Most utterly depraved throughout, and ill
In sight of Heaven, though less in sight of man;
At enmity with God, his Maker, born,
And by his very life an heir of death.

Pollok.

HE IS AT ENMITY TO GOD.

Rom. i. 30; v. 10; viii. 7. Col. i. 21. James iv. 4.

Man's feelings, thoughts, and will
At enmity with Thee remain;
And in that enmity must still
A lowly Saviour's yoke disdain.

Barton.

IN HIS FALLEN STATE HE IS IGNORANT OF GOD, AND AVERSE TO HIM AND HIS WAYS.

Job xxi. 14, 15; xxii. 17. Prov. xix. 3. Isaiah i. 3; v. 12; liii. 6. Jer. iv. 22; ix. 3, 6. John i. 10, 11; iii. 19. 1 Cor. i. 21. Ephes. ii. 12; iv. 18. Col. i. 21. 1 John iii. 1.

His mind
Is foul as winter's miry flood;
To all eternal things is blind!
To evil, ah, how much inclined!
And how averse to good!

Brown.

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HIS HEART IS HARD.

Jer. v. 3; vi. 15. Ezek. ii. 4; iii. 7; xxxvi. 26. Zech. vii. 12. Rom. ii. 5. Ephes. iv. 18, 19.

Oh for a glance of heavenly day,
To take this stubborn stone away!
And thaw with beams of love divine,
This heart, this frozen heart of mine.

The rocks can rend, the earth can quake,
The sea can roar, the mountains shake;
Of feeling all things show some sign,
But this unfeeling heart of mine.

Hart.

HIS HEART IS DECEITFUL.

Psalm xii. 2; lxxviii. 36, 37, 57. Prov. xxviii. 26. Isaiah xliv. 20. Jer. xvii. 9. Ezek. xxxiii. 31. Hosea vii. 14. Micah iii. 11.

My heart inclines to bliss,
Yet studies the strait way to miss;
My thoughts are loose and vain:
When I most strive them to restrain,
They fly at random all the world about,
And render my best prayers careless and indevout.

Opinions false one while
My fond credulity beguile:
In a mistaken way
With pertinaciousness I stray;
I no destructive consequences heed,
Am harder to reclaim, the farther I proceed.

Bp. Kenn.

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ALL EVIL PROCEEDS FROM HIS HEART.

Gen. vi. 5; viii. 21. Mark vii. 21—23. James i. 14; iv. 1, 2, 5.

Astonish'd and distress'd,
I turn mine eyes within;
My heart with loads of guilt oppress'd,
The seat of every sin.

What crowds of evil thoughts,
What vile affections there!
Distrust, presumptuous, artful guile,
Pride, envy, slavish fear.

Toplady.

HIS UNDERSTANDING IS DARKENED.

Isaiah i. 3; xlii. 7. Matt. xiii. 19. Luke i. 79. Acts xxvi. 18. Rom. i. 31; iii. 11. 1 Cor. ii. 14. 2 Cor. iv. 4. Ephes. iv. 18; v. 8. Col. i. 13.

To all that's good, averse and blind,
But prone to all that's ill;
What dreadful darkness veils our mind,
How obstinate our will!

Watts.

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HE IS WORLDLY-MINDED.

Isaiah v. 11, 12. Rom. viii. 5, 7. Ephes. ii. 2, 3.
Phil. iii. 19. James iv. 13.

I cannot do an act which earth disdains not;
I cannot think a thought which earth corrupts not;
I cannot speak a word which earth profanes not;
I cannot make a vow earth interrupts not;
If I but offer up an early groan,
Or spread my wings to Heaven's long long'd-for throne,
She darkens my complaints, and drags my off'ring down.

Quarles.

HE IS SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

Luke xviii. 9, 10. Acts xv. 1—5. Rom. ix. 31, 32; x. 3.

How long beneath the law I lay
In bondage and distress!
I toil'd the precept to obey,
But toil'd without success.

Then all my servile works were done,
A righteousness to raise;
Now, freely chosen in the Son,
I freely choose his ways.

Cowper.

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IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

Matt. viii. 22. John v. 25. Rom. viii. 6. Ephes. ii. 4, 5; v. 14. Col. ii. 13.

Dead, already dead within;
Spiritually dead in sin,
Dead to God while here you breathe,
Pant you after second death?

Anon.

HIS MORAL CHARACTER IS DEGRADED.

Rom. i. 29—32. 1 Cor. vi. 9—11. Gal. v. 19—21. Titus iii. 3. 1 Peter iv. 3.

By nature all are gone astray,
Their practice all the same;
There's none that fears his Maker's hand;
There's none that loves his name.

Their tongues are used to speak deceit,
Their slanders never cease;
How swift to mischief are their feet!
Nor know the paths of peace.

Watts.

HE LOVES SIN.

Job xv. 16. Prov. iv. 16. Eccles. viii. 11. Jer. v. 31. Micah vii. 2, 3. John iii. 19. Rom. i. 32. Ephes. iv. 19. 2 Thess. ii. 11, 12.

Men dig for hell beneath,
They labour hard for death;
Run themselves out of breath,
To overtake it.

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Hell is not had for nought,
Damnation's dearly bought,
And with great labour sought,
They'll not forsake it.
Their souls are Satan's fee,
He'll not abate it;
Grace is refused that's free,
And sinners hate it.

Baxter.

IN HIS FALLEN STATE HE IS UNDER THE DOMINION OF A WICKED SPIRIT.

1 Chron. xxi. 1. Matt. xiii. 38, 39. Luke xi. 21, 22; xxii. 3. John viii. 44; xiii. 2, 27. Acts v. 3; xxvi. 18. 1 Cor. vii. 5. 2 Cor. ii. 11; iv. 4. Ephes. ii. 2; vi. 12. Col. i. 13. 2 Tim. ii. 26. 1 John iii. 8—10.

The spirits and the powers of air,
In mystery and in night they roam,
Unseen they act, unknown they dare,
And make the evil heart their home.

And one, their centre and their soul,
There is, the demon-god of sin,
Who o'er the wicked hath control,
And fires the hell we feel within.

R. Montgomery.

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THE GUILT AND MISERY OF SIN.

1 Sam. ii. 30. Job xxi. 30. Psalm xi. 5, 6; xxviii. 5; xxxiv. 16; l. 22; liii. 5; cxii. 10. Prov. i. 24—31; xiii. 21; xiv. 12. Isaiah xlviii. 22. Ezek. xviii. 4. Rom. i. 18; ii. 8, 9; iii. 16; v. 12; vi. 21, 23; viii. 6, 13. Gal. v. 21. Ephes. ii. 12; v. 5, 6. 2 Thess. ii. 12.

They must be as the troubled sea,
They cannot rest who know not thee,
Whose working hearts, disturb'd within,
Cast up the mire of actual sin.

No peace the wicked e'er can know,
While hastening to their place below;
But trouble must with sin remain,
Sad earnest of eternal pain.

C. Wesley.

SIN HAS SEPARATED MAN FROM GOD.

Psalm lxvi. 18. Isaiah i. 15; lix. 2. Ezek. xxxix. 23. Rom. viii. 7. Ephes. iv. 18. Col. i. 21.

Sin has undone our wretched race,
But Jesus has restored;
And brought the sinner face to face
With his forgiving Lord.

Cowper.

THE DESCRIPTION OF SIN.

Prov. xxiv. 9. Rom. xiv. 23. James iv. 17. 1 John iii. 4; v. 17.

Oh, cursed, cursed sin! traitor to God,
And ruiner of man! mother of woe,
And death, and hell! wretched, yet seeking worse;

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Polluted most, yet wallowing in the mire;
Most mad, yet drinking frenzy's giddy cup;
Depth ever deepening, darkness darkening still;
Folly for wisdom, guilt for innocence;
Anguish for rapture, and for hope despair;
Destroyed, destroying; in tormenting pained;
Unawed by wrath, by mercy unreclaimed;
Thing most mighty, most forlorn, most sad.

Pollok.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE HEART OF MAN SHOULD BE CHANGED, BEFORE HE CAN ENTER HEAVEN.

Psalm v. 4, 5. Hab. i. 13. Matt. xviii. 3. John iii. 3, 5, 7. Rom. viii. 7, 8. 1 Cor. ii. 14; vi. 9, 10. 2 Cor. v. 17. Gal. vi. 15. Ephes. iv. 22, 23; v. 5. Col. i. 12. Titus iii. 5. Heb. xii. 14. Rev. xxi. 27.

None but pure hearts
Can taste pure pleasures. Holy minds alone
Can dwell with purity divine in bliss.

Swain.

I need a cleansing change within,
My life must once again begin;
New hope I need, and hope renewed,
And more than human fortitude;
New faith, new love, and strength to cast
Away the fetters of the past.

Coleridge.

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IT IS BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT THIS NEW PRINCIPLE IS IMPLANTED IN MAN.

Jer. xxiv. 7. Ezek. xxxvi. 26, 27. Matt. iii. 11. John i. 13; iii. 3, 5, 7; vi. 63. Titus iii. 5. 1 John iii. 9; v. 18.

The Spirit must its aid impart,
Must cleanse and sanctify the heart;
And through the Son for sinners slain,
Our spirits must be born again.

Barton.

THE ETERNAL COVENANT ENTERED INTO WITH EACH OTHER, BY THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, FOR THE SALVATION OF THE CHURCH.

2 Sam. xxiii. 5. Psalm lxxxix. 34—36. Isaiah liii. 11. John xvii. 11. Ephes. i. 3, 4; iii. 11. 2 Tim. i. 9. Titus i. 2. Heb. xiii. 20. 1 Peter i. 2, 20.

Eternal love,
Eternal, sovereign love, and sovereign grace,
Wisdom, and power, and mercy infinite,
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God,
Devised the wondrous plan, devised, achieved,
And in achieving made the marvel more.

Pollok.

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MAN CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF.

Job ix. 2, 3; xxv. 4. Psalm cxliii. 2. Isaiah lxiv. 6. Jer. xiii. 23. Rom. iii. 20. Ephes. ii. 8, 9. Titus iii. 5.

Think not that any born of Adam's race,
In his own proper virtue, enter'd heaven;
Once fallen from God and perfect holiness,
No being, unassisted, e'er could rise,
Or sanctify the sin-polluted soul:
Oft was the trial made, but vainly made.

Pollok.

EITHER BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW.

Isaiah lxiv. 6. Acts xiii. 39. Rom. iii. 20, 27, 28; viii. 3, 4; ix. 30, 32; xi. 6. Gal. ii. 16, 21; v. 4. Ephes. ii. 8, 9. 2 Tim. i. 9. Titus iii. 5. Heb. vii. 19.

The plea of works, as arrogant and vain,
Heaven turns from with abhorrence and disdain;
Not more affronted by avowed neglect,
Than by the mere dissembler's feign'd respect.
What is all righteousness that men devise?
What but a sordid bargain for the skies?
But Christ as soon would abdicate his own,
As stoop from heaven to sell the proud a throne.

Cowper.

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OR BY ANY OTHER PERFORMANCE.

Psalm xlix. 7, 8. Isaiah i. 11. Micah vi. 6—8. Luke xvii. 10. Heb. ix. 9—12; x. 1—4.

Not the labour of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands:
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Toplady.

SALVATION IS FROM GOD ONLY.

Psalm iii. 8; xxxvii. 39. Isaiah lii. 10; lix. 16. Jer. iii. 23. Hosea xiii. 9. Jonah ii. 9. Luke i. 68, 69; ii. 30—32. John vi. 44, 45. Rom. ix. 16. Ephes. ii. 4—8. 1 John v. 11. Rev. vii. 10; xix. 1.

Not for works which we have done,
  Or shall hereafter do,
Hath God decreed on sinful worms,
  Salvation to bestow.

The glory, Lord, from first to last,
  Is due to thee alone;
Aught to ourselves we dare not take,
  Or rob thee of thy crown.

Toplady.

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SALVATION IS THROUGH CHRIST.

Isaiah xxxii. 1—3; lxi. 1—3; lxiii. 1. Zech. ix. 9. Matt. i. 21; xi. 28. Luke xix. 10. Acts v. 31; xiii. 38, 39. Rom. vii. 24, 25. 2 Cor. v. 18, 19. Gal. i. 3, 4. 1 Tim. i. 15. 2 Tim. ii. 10. Heb. v. 9. 1 John iv. 14.

Salvation! O thou bleeding Lamb,
To thee the praise belongs;
Salvation shall inspire our hearts,
And dwell upon our tongues.

Watts.

SALVATION IS THROUGH CHRIST ONLY.

Isaiah xliii. 11; xlv. 21, 22. Hosea xiii. 4. John xiv. 6. Acts iv. 12. 1 Cor. iii. 11. 1 Tim. ii. 5. 1 John v. 11, 12.

Heaven has but one door:
He who built its stately frame declares,
Whose word stands firm as his eternal throne,
"No other name is publish'd under heaven,
Wherein salvation can be found, but one."

Swain.

IS GIVEN TO US OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

Rom. iii. 24; iv. 4, 5; xi. 5, 6. 1 Cor. xv. 10. Ephes. ii. 8. 2 Tim. i. 9. Titus ii. 11; iii. 5—7.

Grace first contrived a way
To save rebellious man;
And all the steps that grace display,
Which form the wondrous plan.

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Grace all the work shall crown,
Through everlasting days;
It lays in heaven the topmost stone,
And well deserves the praise.

Doddridge.

MAN CANNOT OF HIS OWN FREE-WILL TURN TO GOD.

Psalm cx. 3. Cant. i. 4. Matt. xvi. 16, 17. John i. 12, 13; vi. 44, 65. Rom. ix. 16. 1 Cor. xii. 3. Gal. i. 1. Ephes. ii. 8. Phil. ii. 13.

Lord, as I am, I have no power at all,
To hear thy voice, or echo to thy call;
The gloomy clouds of mine own guilt benight me;
Thy glorious beams, not dainty sweets, invite me;
They neither can direct, nor these at all delight me.

See, how my sin-bemangled body lies,
Not having power to will, nor will to rise!
Shine home upon thy creature, and inspire
My lifeless will with thy regen'rate fire;
The first degree to do, is only to desire.

Give me the power to will, the will to do;
O raise me up, and I will strive to go:
Draw me, O draw me with thy treble twist,
That have no power but merely to resist.
O lend me strength to do, and then command thy list.

Quarles.

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PREDESTINATION TO SERVE GOD'S PURPOSES.

Exod. ix. 16. Josh. xi. 20. Isaiah xliv. 28. Jer. i. 5. Acts ix. 15. 1 Peter ii. 8. 2 Peter ii. 12. Jude 4.

Ten thousand ages ere the skies
  Were into motion brought,
All the long years and worlds to come,
  Stood present to his thought.

There's not a sparrow or a worm
  But's found in his decrees;
He raises monarchs to their throne,
  And sinks them as he please.

Watts.

PREDESTINATION TO GRACE AND GLORY.

Luke x. 20. Acts ii. 47; xiii. 48. Rom. viii. 29, 30; ix. 23. Ephes. i. 5—11.

Predestinated to be sons,
Born by degrees, but chose at once;
A new, regenerated race,
To praise the glory of his grace.

Watts.

GOD ELECTS OR CHOOSES HIS OWN PEOPLE.

Matt. xxiv. 22, 31. Luke xviii. 7. John xv. 19; xvii. 6, 9. Rom. viii. 28. Col. iii. 12. 1 Thess. i. 4. 1 Peter i. 2. Rev. xiii. 8; xxi. 27.

Electing love, the great first cause of all
The grand displays of saving grace; the sun
In Zion's firmament! illuminates and warms
The hearts of all the ransom'd sons of God.

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What condescension! God makes choice of worms
To be his special treasure, yea his sons:
What matchless grace! the heirs of life and bliss
Elected from the rebel race of man,
And freely pardoned, justified, and saved.

J. Irons.

THEY ARE CHOSEN IN CHRIST JESUS; AND THIS ELECTION IS,

I. ETERNAL.

Jer. xxxi. 3. Matt. xxv. 34. Ephes. i. 4; iii. 11.
2 Thess. ii. 13. 2 Tim. i. 9. Titus i. 2.

Loved of my God, for him again
With love intense I burn:
Chosen of thee ere time began,
I choose thee in return.

Toplady.

II. FREE.

Deut. vii. 7, 8. Jer. iii. 14. Rom. ix. 11; xi. 5.
Ephes. i. 5.

Electing goodness! firm and free,
Our whole salvation hangs on thee,
Eldest and fairest daughter of eternity,
Redemption, grace, and glory too,
Our bliss above, and hopes below,
From her their parent-fountain flow.

Toplady.

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III. UNCHANGEABLE.

Rom. xi. 29. 2 Tim. ii. 19. Heb. vi. 17—19.

This is God's will, that in his love
We ever should abide,
And lo, we earth and hell defy
To make his counsel void.

Not one of all the chosen race
But shall to heaven attain;
Partake on earth the purpos'd grace,
And then with Jesus reign.

Toplady.

THIS ELECTION IS TO HOLINESS, AS THE MEANS.

John xv. 16. Rom. viii. 29. Ephes. i. 4; ii. 10. 1 Thess. iv. 7. 2 Tim. i. 9. 1 Peter i. 2, 15; ii. 9.

How vast the benefits divine,
Which we in Christ possess!
Saved from the guilt of sin we are,
And called to holiness.

Toplady.

AND TO SALVATION, AS THE END.

1 Thess. v. 9. 2 Thess. ii. 13, 14. 2 Tim. ii. 10. 1 Peter v. 10.

Salvation in his name there is,
Salvation from sin, death, and hell;
Salvation into glorious bliss;
How great salvation who can tell?

C. Wesley.

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EFFECTUAL CALLING.

Rom. viii. 28; ix. 11, 23, 24; xi. 29. 1 Cor. i. 9. Gal. i. 15. 1 Thess. ii. 12; v. 24. 2 Thess. ii. 14. 2 Tim. i. 9. Heb. ix. 15. 1 Peter i. 15; ii. 9. Jude 1. Rev. xvii. 14; xix. 9.

Hail! ransom'd sinners, called to be saints!
Sing of the grace which stopp'd your sinful course;
Admire its sovereignty, and own its power.
In vain the voice of man, vain all the calls
Of Providence, till Jesus spake with power;
He call'd; yea, still he calls the chosen race,
Away from earth and sin, to holiness.
His call imparts the power to obey his voice,
And draws the soul to love and trust his name.

J. Irons.

CHRIST MAKES HIS PEOPLE FREE FROM THE CURSE OF THE BROKEN LAW.

Isaiah liii. 11. Acts xiii. 38, 39. Rom. iii. 28; v. 18, 19; viii. 3. Gal. ii. 16; iii. 13, 14; iv. 4, 5. Heb. vii. 18, 19.

Jesus, whose blood so freely stream'd
To satisfy the law's demand;
By thee from guilt and wrath redeem'd,
Before the Father's face I stand.

No drop remains of all the curse,
For wretches who deserved the whole;
No arrows dipp'd in wrath to pierce
The guilty, but returning soul.

Peace by such means, so dearly bought,
What rebel could have hoped to see?
Peace, by his injured Sovereign wrought,
His Sovereign fasten'd to the tree.

Cowper.

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CHRIST IS THE ATONEMENT OR PROPITIATION FOR THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE.

Levit. xvi. 15, 16. Isaiah liii. 11. John i. 29; vi. 51. Rom. iii. 25; v. 11. 1 Cor. v. 7. Ephes. i. 7. Heb. i. 3; ix. 12, 14, 22, 23; xiii. 11, 12. 1 Peter i. 18, 19. 1 John i. 7; ii. 2; iv. 10. Rev. i. 5; v. 9.

Thy anger for that I have done,
  Thy Gospel forbids me to fear:
My sins thou hast charg'd on thy Son;
  Thy justice to him I refer.

Be mindful of Jesus and me!
  My pardon he suffer'd to buy;
And what he procured on the tree,
  For me he demands in the sky.

Toplady.

CHRIST IS THE SURETY OF HIS PEOPLE.

Levit. xvi. 7, 8, 10, 20, 22. Isaiah liii. 5, 6. Dan. ix. 26. Matt. xx. 28. John xi. 50. Rom. iv. 25; viii. 32. 1 Cor. xv. 3. 2 Cor. v. 15, 21. Gal. i. 4; ii. 20; iii. 13. Ephes. v. 2, 25. Titus ii. 14. Heb. ii. 9; vii. 22, 27; ix. 28. 1 Peter ii. 24; iii. 18.

The scape-goat on his head
The people's trespass bore,
And to the desert led,
Was to be seen no more:
In him our Surety seem'd to say,
"Behold, I bear your sins away."

Cowper.

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CHRIST IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS PEOPLE.

Psalm lxxi. 16; lxxxix. 16. Cant. i. 5. Isaiah xlv. 24, 25; liii. 11; liv. 17; lxi. 10. Jer. xxiii. 6; xxxiii. 16. Ezek. xvi. 14. Dan. ix. 24. Acts xiii. 38, 39. Rom. iii. 22—26; iv. 6, 7, 8, 24; v. 9, 17—19; x. 4. 1 Cor. i. 30. 2 Cor. v. 21. Gal. ii. 16; v. 5. Phil. iii. 9.

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress:
Midst flaming worlds in these array'd,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

This spotless robe the same appears,
When ruin'd nature sinks in years;
No age can change its glorious hue,
The robe of Christ is ever new.

And when the dead shall hear thy voice,
Thy banish'd children shall rejoice,
Their beauty this, their glorious dress,
Jesus, the Lord our righteousness!

Translated from the German of Count Zinzendorf, by C. Wesley.

Thy merit,
Imputed, shall absolve them who renounce
Their own both righteous and unrighteous deeds,
And live in Thee transplanted, and from Thee
Receive new life. So man, as is most just,
Shall satisfy for man, be judged, and die,
And dying, rise; and rising, with him raise
His brethren, ransom'd with his own dear life.

Milton.

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CHRIST SAVES FROM THE BURDEN OF SIN ON THE CONSCIENCE.

Isaiah i. 18. Matt. xi. 28. Heb. ix. 14; x. 22.

Though sins exceed a mountain,
Or sands on ocean's shore,
The everlasting fountain
Of Jesus' blood hath power
To wash all sin and guilt away,
And save me from that terror
Which held me in dismay.

Moravian.

FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN IN THE HEART AND LIFE.

Hosea xiv. 8. Matt. i. 21. John viii. 32, 36. Acts iii. 26. Rom. vi. 6, 14, 22; viii. 2. Gal. i. 3, 4; v. 16. Titus ii. 14. 1 John iii. 9; v. 18.

Christ's blood shall over all prevail,
And sanctify th' unclean:
The grave that saves from future hell
Shall save from present sin.

Toplady.

FROM THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN IN THE WORLD TO COME.

John iii. 16, 18; v. 24; viii. 51; xi. 26. Rom. v. 9; viii. 2. 1 Thess. i. 10; v. 9. Heb. ii. 15.

The world in condemnation lay,
And death from Adam reigning,
O'er man maintained remorseless sway,
While sin, his soul enchaining,

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Foredoom'd the second death to all
That shared the ruins of the fall;
But Christ's triumphant mission
Redeem'd us from perdition.

J. Montgomery.

PARDON.

Exod. xxxiv. 7. Psalm xxxii. 1, 2. Isaiah i. 18; xxxiii. 24. Zech. xiii. 1. Matt. xxvi. 28. Luke vii. 47. Acts v. 31; xiii. 38. 1 John i. 9.

Survey the wondrous cure!
And at each step let higher wonder rise!
Pardon for infinite offence! and pardon
Through means that speaks its value infinite!
A pardon bought with blood! with blood divine!
With blood divine of Him we made our foe!

Young.

A FULL PARDON.

Psalm ciii. 3; cxxx. 8. Jer. xxxiii. 8. Micah vii. 18, 19. Matt. xii. 31. Col. ii. 13. 1 John i. 7.

Let men enslaved by Satan and by sin,
To Christ for full and free redemption fly;
And though their sins exceed the scarlet dye,
Or new-shed crimson on the murderer's knife,
And though in number they exceed the stars
That roll above the azure firmament;
Yet shall their minds in purity surpass
The virgin snow that from the skies descends,
And equal that of angels round the throne.

Swain.

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A FREE PARDON.

Isaiah xliii. 25; xliv. 22. Ephes. i. 7. 1 John i. 7.

Me in my blood, thy love pass'd by,
And stopp'd, my ruin to retrieve;
Wept o'er my soul thy pitying eye;
Thy bowels yearned, and sounded, "Live!"
Dying, I heard the welcome sound,
And pardon in thy mercy found.

C. Wesley.

AN EVERLASTING PARDON.

Psalm ciii. 12. Isaiah xxxviii. 17. Jer. l. 20.
Ezek. xxxiii. 16. Heb. viii. 12.

Millions of our transgressions past,
Cancell'd, behind thy back are cast;
Thy grace, a sea without a shore,
O'erflows them, and they rise no more.

Doddridge.

ADOPTION.

Isaiah lxiii. 16. Jer. iii. 19; xxxi. 9. Matt. vi. 9. John i. 12. Rom. viii. 14, 15; ix. 26. 2 Cor. vi. 18. Gal. iii. 26; iv. 4—6. Ephes. i. 5. 1 John iii. 1, 2.

Born unto God, in Christ,—in Christ my all!
What that earth boasts, were not lost cheaply, rather
Than forfeit that blest name, by which we call
The Holy One, the Almighty God, our Father?
Father! in Christ we live; and Christ in Thee:
Eternal Thou, and everlasting we!

Coleridge.

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RECONCILIATION.

Isaiah xxvii. 5. Rom. v. 9. 2 Cor. v. 18, 19. Ephes. ii. 13—17. Col. i. 21, 22. Heb. ii. 17.

In Jesus God is reconciled,
The worst may be forgiven;
Come, and he'll own you as a child,
And make you heir of heaven.

Newton.

FREE ACCESS TO GOD WITH ACCEPTANCE.

Ezek. xx. 40, 41. Ephes. i. 6; ii. 18; iii. 12. Heb. iv. 16; x. 19, 20, 22.

Christ is the way, the only way to God:
Through him the sinner at Jehovah's throne
May seek acceptance, and acceptance find.

Swain.

HEARING PRAYER.

Job xxii. 27. Psalm iv. 3; xxxiv. 15, 17; xci. 15; cxlv. 19. Isaiah xxx. 19; lviii. 9; lxv. 24. Jer. xxix. 12. Zech. xiii. 9. Matt. xxi. 22. John xiv. 13; xv. 7; xvi. 23, 24. James v. 15. 1 John iii. 22; v. 14, 15.

That were a grief I could not bear,
Didst thou not hear and answer prayer;
But a prayer-hearing, answering God,
Supports me under every load.

Cowper.

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SANCTIFICATION.

John xvii. 19. Acts xxvi. 18. Rom. viii. 29. 1 Cor. i. 2, 30; vi. 11. 2 Cor. iii. 18. Ephes. v. 26. 2 Thess. ii. 13. Titus ii. 14. Heb. ii. 11; x. 10, 14; xiii. 12. (See also page 91.)

O Holy Spirit, let thy work go on
Within my soul; there testify of Christ,
Apply his precious blood, subdue my sins,
And let my conversation be in heaven;
The element in which my soul would live
Is perfect holiness,—in love divine.
A closer fellowship with God I crave,
To dwell in God, and God to dwell in me,
Apart from earth, above this carnal world,
As one intent upon celestial things,
Just on the confines of eternal bliss,
And waiting for the holiness of heaven.

J. Irons.

PEACE OF MIND.

Psalm lxxxv. 8; cxix. 165. Isaiah xxvi. 3; xxxii. 17. Luke vii. 50. John xiv. 27; xvi. 33. Rom. v. 1; xiv. 17; xv. 13. Phil. iv. 7. Col. iii. 15. 2 Thess. iii. 16.

Peace, which the world to worldlings cannot give,
Nor, blessed be its Giver's name, destroy;
Peace which can all the ills of life outlive,
Promise and prelude of eternal joy.

Barton.

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DIVINE TEACHING.

Psalm xxv. 12; xxxii. 8. Isaiah liv. 13. John vii. 17. 1 Thess. iv. 9. (See pages 52, 91.)

DIVINE GUIDANCE.

Deut. xxxii. 10, 12. Psalm xxiii. 3; xxv. 9; xxxii. 8; xlviii. 14; lxxiii. 24. Isaiah xxx. 21; xlix. 10; lvii. 18; lxi. 8; lxiii. 13, 14. John xvi. 13.

Of friends and counsellors bereft,
  I often hear him say,
Decline not to the right or left;
  Go on, lo! here's the way."

God is my helper and my guide;
  I trust to Him alone:
No other helps have I beside;
  I venture all in one.

Hart.

TRUE LIBERTY.

Isa. lxi. 1. John viii. 36. Rom. vi. 18; viii. 2. 1 Cor. vii. 22. 2 Cor. iii. 17. Gal. v. 1, 13. James i. 25. 1 Pet. ii. 16.

There is yet a liberty, unsung
By poets, and by senators unprais'd,
Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers
Of earth and hell confederate take away;
A liberty, which persecution, fraud,
Oppression, prisons, have no power to bind;
Which whoso tastes can be enslaved no more.

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'Tis liberty of heart, derived from Heaven,
Bought with His blood, who gave it to mankind,
And seal'd with the same token. It is held
By charter, and that charter sanction'd sure
By th' unimpeachable and awful oath
And promise of a God.

Cowper.

MEDIATION OF CHRIST.

John x. 9; xiv. 6, 14. 1 Tim. ii. 5. Heb. viii. 6; ix. 15; xii. 24.

Gracious Lord, who stand'st between
God the Judge and sinful men;
Thee we joyfully will hear,
Speak, Divine Interpreter.

C. Wesley.

INTERCESSION OF CHRIST.

Isaiah liii. 12. John xvi. 23, 24; xvii. 9, 11, 20, 21. Rom. viii. 34. Ephes. ii. 18. Heb. iv. 14—16; vii. 25; ix. 24; x. 19. 1 John ii. 1.

Christ ever lives above,
For me to intercede;
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for all our race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

C. Wesley.

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GRACE AGAINST TEMPTATION.

Eccles. vii. 18. Rom. viii. 37. 1 Cor. x. 13. 2 Cor. xii. 9. Heb. ii. 18. 2 Peter ii. 9. 1 John iv. 4.

Still nigh me, O my Saviour, stand!
And guard in fierce temptation's hour;
Hide in the hollow of thy hand;
Show forth in me thy saving power;
Still be thy arms my sure defence;
Nor earth nor hell shall pluck me thence.

Though in affliction's furnace tried,
Unhurt on snares and death I'll tread;
Though sin assail, and hell thrown wide
Pour all its flames upon my head;
Like Moses' bush I'll mount the higher,
And flourish unconsum'd in fire.

C. Wesley.

INCREASE OF GRACE.

Job xvii. 9. Psalm lxxxiv. 7; xcii. 12. Prov. iv. 18. Isaiah xl. 29—31. Hosea xiv. 5—7. Mal. iv. 2. Matt. xiii. 12. Mark iv. 26—28. Luke viii. 18. John xv. 2. James iv. 6. 1 John ii. 12—14.

Grace turned my wand'ring feet
To tread the heavenly road,
And new supplies each hour I meet,
While pressing on to God.

Doddridge.

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VICTORY OVER THE WORLD.

John xvi. 33. Gal. i. 4; vi. 14. 1 John iv. 4; v. 4, 5.

Let worldly minds the world pursue,
It has no charms for me;
Once I admired its trifles too,
But grace has set me free.

As by the light of opening day,
The stars are all concealed;
So earthly pleasures fade away,
When Jesus is revealed.

Newton.

VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL.

Luke xxii. 31, 32. Rom. xvi. 20. Ephes. vi. 11—16.
1 Pet. v. 8, 9. 1 John ii. 14; v. 18. Rev. xii. 10, 11.

Is any thing too hard for God?
Through Jesus we can all things do:
Who Satan and his works destroys,
Shall make us more than conquerors too.

C. Wesley.

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SECURITY IN CHRIST JESUS, AND FINAL PRESERVATION TO ETERNAL LIFE.

Job xvii. 9. Psalm xxxvii. 28; cxxxviii. 8. Prov. iv. 18. Isaiah xlv. 17. John iii. 16; v. 24; vi. 39; x. 28; xiv. 19; xvii. 9—12. Rom. x. 11. 1 Cor. i. 8. Phil. i. 6. Heb. v. 9. 1 Peter i. 5. Jude 1.

They whom the Father giveth
By covenant to the Son,
Must live because he liveth,
And Christ and they are one;
The soul he deigns to cherish,
Can never, never perish.

Conder.

Not as the world the Saviour gives,
He is no fickle friend;
Whom once he loves he never leaves,
But loves him to the end.

The soul that would this truth withstand,
Would pull God's temple down;
Wrest Jesus' sceptre from his hand,
And spoil him of his crown.

Satan might then full victory boast,
The church might wholly fall;
If one believer may be lost,
It follows, so may all.

Hart.

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THE FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH.

Job xix. 25—27. Psalm xvii. 15; xviii. 2; xxiii. 4—6; lxxiii. 24—26. Cant. ii. 16. Isaiah xxxii. 17. Rom. viii. 38, 39. 2 Cor. v. 1. Gal. ii. 20. Phil. i. 21. 1 Thess. i. 5. 2 Tim. i. 12; iv. 8. Heb. x. 22. 1 Pet. v. 1. 1 John iii. 19.

A debtor to mercy alone,
  Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear with thy righteousness on,
  My person and off'rings to bring:
The terrors of law and of God
  With me can have nothing to do;
My Saviour's obedience and blood
  Hide all my transgressions from view.

My name from the palms of his hands,
  Eternity will not erase:
Impressed on his heart it remains,
  In marks of indelible grace:
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
  As sure as the earnest is given;
More happy, but not more secure,
  The glorified spirits in heav'n.

Toplady.

Lord, I believe thou hast prepar'd
  (Unworthy though I be,)
For me a blood-bought free reward,
  A golden harp for me.

Cowper.

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THE LORD GIVES HIS PEOPLE SUPPORT AND VICTORY IN DEATH.

Psalm xxiii. 4; xlviii. 14. Prov. xiv. 32. Isaiah xxv. 8. Hosea xiii. 14. Rom. viii. 38, 39. 1 Cor. xv. 55—57. 2 Tim. i. 10, 12. Heb. ii. 14, 15.

Dark river of Death that art flowing
  Between the bright city and me,
Thou boundest the path I am going,
  O how shall I pass over thee?

O thou who hast broken the power
  Of this the last victor of men,
Be with me in that solemn hour,
  O grant me deliverance then!

The glory from Calvary streaming,
  Will shine o'er the cold sable wave;
And the faith that is oftentimes beaming,
  Will burst through the gloom of the grave.

And peace will shine cloudless above me,
  When I think what my Saviour has said,
"The Father himself deigns to love me,"
  And Jesus has died in my stead!

With the prospect of meeting for ever,
  With the bright gates of heaven in view,
From the dearest on earth I could sever,
  And smile a delightful adieu.

Edmeston.

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HAPPINESS AFTER DEATH.

Job iii. 17. Psalm xlix. 15; lxxiii. 24. Isaiah lvii. 2. Luke xvi. 25; xxiii. 43. 1 Cor. ii. 9. 2 Cor. v. 8. Phil. i. 21. 2 Tim. iv. 8. Heb. xii. 28. Rev. iii. 4; xiv. 13.

In vain our fancy strives to paint
  The moment after death,
The glories that surround the saint
  When he resigns his breath.

One gentle sigh his fetters breaks;
  We scarce can say, "He's gone,"
Before the willing spirit takes
  Her mansion near the throne.

Newton.

A GLORIOUS RESURRECTION.

Job xix. 26, 27. Psalm xvi. 9, 10. Isaiah xxvi. 19. Dan. xii. 2. Luke xx. 35, 36. John v. 28, 29; vi. 39, 40; xi. 25. Rom. viii. 11. 1 Cor. xv. 21, 22, 42—44, 51—54. 2 Cor. iv. 14. Phil. iii. 21. 1 Thess. iv. 14—17. 2 Tim. i. 10.

Resting in this glorious hope,
  To be at last restored,
Yield we now our bodies up
  To earthquake, plague, or sword.
Listening for the call divine,
  The latest trumpet of the seven:
Soon our soul and dust shall join,
  And both fly up to heaven.

C. Wesley.

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FREEDOM FROM ALL SIN AND SORROW IN THE FUTURE WORLD.

Job iii. 17. Isaiah xxxiii. 24; lx. 20. Matt. vi. 20. Ephes. v. 27. Col. i. 22. Jude 24. Rev. vii. 16, 17; xiv. 5; xxi. 4; xxii. 3.

No sorrow now hangs clouding on their brow,
No bloodless malady empales their face,
No age drops on their hairs his silver snow,
No nakedness their bodies doth embase,
No poverty themselves and theirs disgrace;
No fear of death the joy of life devours,
No unchaste sleep their precious time deflow'rs,
No loss, no grief, no change, wait on their winged hours.

Giles Fletcher, 1588.

But oh! no foe invades the bliss,
When glory crowns the Christian's head;
One view of Jesus as He is,
Will strike all sin for ever dead.

Cowper.

GLORY IN THE FUTURE WORLD.

Psalm lxxiii. 24. Dan. xii. 3. Matt. xiii. 43. Rom. viii. 17, 18, 30. 2 Cor. iv. 17, 18. Col. iii. 4. 2 Tim. ii. 10. 1 Peter iv. 13.

No eye hath seen, nor ear hath heard, nor words,
Nor thoughts, nor mortal powers can comprehend
The glory that awaits the ransom'd soul.

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But when his glad dismission is obtained
From all below, he wings his way on high
To see, and know, and share the bliss of heaven;
He ranges o'er the plains of bliss, recounts
The wonders grace has wrought, and glory finds
In Jesus' unveil'd lovely countenance,
No more to lose the captivating sight;
But dwelling near the throne, absorb'd in bliss,
He looks, and loves, and sings eternally.

J. Irons.

THE PRESENCE AND THE ENJOYMENT OF GOD.

Psalm xvi. 11; xvii. 15; xxxvi. 9. Isaiah xxxiii. 17; lx. 19, 20. Matt. v. 8. John xiv. 2, 3. 1 Thess. iv. 17; 1 John iii. 2. Rev. xxi. 22, 23; xxii. 3—5.

There the pale orb of night, and the fountain of day,
Nor beauty nor splendour bestow;
But the presence of Him, the unchanging I AM!
And the holy, the pure, the immaculate Lamb!
Light the land which no mortal may know.

Barton.

There shall my dis-imprisoned soul
Behold Him and adore;
Be with his likeness satisfied,
And grieve and sin no more.

Toplady.

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ETERNAL LIFE.

Matt. xxv. 46. John vi. 47. Rom. ii. 7; v. 17; vi. 23. 2 Tim. i. 10. Titus i. 2; iii. 7. 1 John ii. 25; v. 11—13. Rev. ii. 7, 10.

There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign;
Infinite day excludes the night,
And pleasures banish pain.

There everlasting spring abides,
And never-withering flow'rs;
Death, like a narrow sea, divides
This heavenly land from ours.

Watts.

DEGREES OF HAPPINESS AND MISERY IN THE FUTURE STATE.

Matt. xi. 22; xvi. 27; xxv. 14, 21—23. Luke xii. 47, 48; xix. 17. John xiv. 2. 1 Cor. xv. 41. 2 Cor. ix. 6.

For lo! before the Son as Judge,
Th' assembled world shall stand,
To take the punishment or prize
From his unerring hand.

Impartial retributions then
Our different lives await;
Our present actions, good or bad,
Shall fix our future state.

Anon.

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THE RELATION BETWEEN CHRIST AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

Psalm xxii. 22. Isaiah viii. 18. Matt. xii. 48—50. John xiii. 13; xv. 9, 10, 14; xvii. 11, 21—23; xx. 17. Rom. viii. 29; xiv. 7, 9. 1 Cor. iii. 22, 23. Heb. ii. 11, 12; iii. 6. 1 Peter i. 7, 8; ii. 7.

Who is my mother, or my brethren?
He spake, and looked on them who sat around,
With a meek smile of pity blent with love,
More melting than e'er gleamed from human face;
As when a sunbeam, through a summer shower,
Shines mildly on a little hill-side flock;
And with that look of love, he said, "Behold
My mother and my brethren: for I say
That whosoe'er shall do the will of God,
He is my brother, sister, mother, all."

Grahame.

FIGURES WHICH DESCRIBE THE UNION BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

BUILDING.

1 Cor. iii. 9. Ephes. ii. 20—22. 1 Tim. iii. 15. Heb. iii. 6. 1 Peter ii. 4, 5.

Jesus the foundation is,
This shall stand, and only this;
Fitly fram'd in him we are,
All the building rises fair;
Let it to a temple rise,
Worthy him who fills the skies.

C. Wesley.

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SHEPHERD AND SHEEP.

Isaiah xl. 11. John x. 14, 27. 1 Peter ii. 25.
(See page 52.)

As the good shepherd leads his sheep,
Through paths secure,
And while a-fold by night they sleep,
Doth keep them sure:
So the true Shepherd, Christ, our souls doth guide,
Safe in his eye, protected by his side.

Great Shepherd, do we know thy voice,
And follow thee?
Is thy safe fold our rule and choice,
From bondage free?
Upheld by faith, the obedient sheep shall stand,
"And none shall pluck them from thy Father's hand."

Jane Taylor.

VINE AND THE BRANCHES.

John xv. 1—5.

O what a root! O what a branch is here!
O what a Father! What a family!
Worlds, systems, and creations! and creations
In one agglomerated cluster hung,
Great Vine, on Thee, on Thee the cluster hangs,
The filial cluster.

Young.

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HEAD AND THE MEMBERS.

Rom. xii. 5. 1 Cor. vi. 15; xii. 27. Ephes. i. 22, 23; iv. 15, 16; v. 30. Col. i. 18; ii. 19.

O Christ, thou art my Head!
Motion, virtue, strength to me,
Me thy living member flow;
Nourish'd I, and fed by Thee,
Up to Thee in all things grow.

C. Wesley.

MARRIAGE.

Isaiah liv. 5. Cant. i. to viii. Rom. vii. 4. 2 Cor. xi. 2. Ephes. v. 25—32. Rev. xix. 7; xxi. 9.

Heaven never such a bridegroom yet descried;
Nor ever earth so fair, so undefiled a bride.

Phineas Fletcher.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO HIS PEOPLE.

Cant. ii. 4. Isaiah lxiii. 9. John xiii. 1, 34; xv. 10. Rom. viii. 35, 37—39. Gal. ii. 20. Ephes. iii. 19; v. 2, 25. 1 John iii. 16. Rev. i. 5; iii. 9.

O love divine! immeasurable love!
Stooping from heaven to earth, from earth to hell,
Without beginning, endless, boundless love!
Above all asking, giving far, to those
Who nought deserved, who nought deserved but death!

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Saving the vilest! saving me! O Love
Divine! O Saviour God! O Lamb once slain!
At thought of thee, thy love, thy flooding blood,
All thoughts decay; all things remembered fade.

Pollok.

THE PRECIOUSNESS OF CHRIST TO HIS PEOPLE.

Psalm lxxiii. 25. Cant. ii. 3; v. 10—16. Isaiah xxviii. 16. Phil. iii. 8. 1 Peter i. 8; ii. 7.

Thou, my all!
My theme! my inspiration! and my crown!
My strength in age! my rise in low estate!
My soul's ambition, pleasure, wealth, my world!
My light in darkness, and my life in death!
My boast through time! bliss through eternity!
Eternity, too short to speak thy praise,
Or fathom thy profound of love to man!
To man of men the meanest, e'en to me!

Young.

THE SYMPATHY OF CHRIST WITH HIS PEOPLE.

Isaiah lxiii. 9. Zech. ii. 8. Matt. xxv. 35—40. John xi. 35. Acts ix. 4, 5. Heb. ii. 17, 18; iv. 15, 16.

Though now ascended up on high,
He bends on earth a brother's eye;
Partaker of the human name,
He knows the frailty of our frame.

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In every pang that rends the heart,
The Man of sorrows had a part;
He sympathizes with our grief,
And to the sufferer sends relief.

Logan.

ALL THESE BENEFITS ARE OBTAINED BY MEANS OF FAITH.

Hab. ii. 4. Rom. i. 16; iii. 22–28; iv. 5—16; x. 9, 11. Gal. ii. 16; iii. 11, 22, 24. Ephes. ii. 8. Heb. x. 38. 1 Peter i. 5, 9.

Oh! how unlike the complex works of man,
Heaven's easy, artless, unencumbered plan!
No meretricious graces to beguile,
No clustering ornaments to clog the pile;
From hesitation as from weakness free,
It stands like the cerulean arch we see,
Majestic in its own simplicity.
Inscribed above the portal, from afar
Conspicuous as the brightness of a star,
Legible only by the light they give,
Stand the soul-quickening words, '*Believe and live!*'

Cowper.

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THE DANGER OF REJECTING THE GOSPEL SALVATION.

Psalm lxxviii. 21, 22. Jer. viii. 20. Mark xvi. 16. Luke xii. 47, 48. John viii. 24; xii. 35, 36, 48. 2 Cor. vi. 1, 2. 2 Thess. ii. 11, 12. Heb. ii. 3; iii. 7, 12; vi. 4—6; x. 28—30, 38, 39; xii. 25. 1 Peter ii. 7, 8. Rev. xxi. 8.

This my long-sufferance, and my day of grace,
They who neglect and scorn, shall never taste;
But hard be hardened, blind be blinded more,
That they may stumble on, and deeper fall;
And none but such from mercy I exclude.

Milton.

THE INVITATIONS TO THE BENEFITS OF THE GOSPEL ARE ADDRESSED TO ALL.

Isaiah xli. 17, 18; xlv. 22; lv. 1. Ezek. xxxiii. 11. Hosea xiii. 9. Matt. v. 6; vi. 33; vii. 7, 8; xi. 28. Luke xix. 10. John iii. 16, 17; vi. 37; vii. 37. 1 Tim. i. 15; ii. 4. Titus ii. 11. James i. 5, 6. 2 Peter iii. 9. Rev. iii. 20; xxi. 6; xxii. 17.

Hath the invitation ended?
  Is the voice of mercy dumb?
Still the message is extended;
  Still the call is, "Freely come!"

Still with sinners Jesus pleadeth,
  In compassion's gentlest tones;
Still in spirit intercedeth
  With unutterable groans;

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Still the Bride, the Church, would gather
  Every wanderer to her fold;
Still the everlasting Father
  Would with love each child behold;

Still the fount is freely flowing,
  Christ hath opened to redeem;
Endless life on all bestowing,
  Who partake its living stream.

Barton.

REPENTANCE.

REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY.

Ezek. xviii. 30. Luke xiii. 3. Acts ii. 38; iii. 19; xvii. 30. xxvi. 20.

NATURE OF TRUE REPENTANCE.

1 Kings viii. 47. Job xlii. 5, 6. Psalm li. 17; cxix. 59. Jer. xxxi. 18, 19. Ezek. vi. 9; xvi. 63; xviii. 21; xxxvi. 31. Dan. ix. 3. Hosea xiv. 1, 2. Joel ii. 12, 13. Zech. xii. 10. Matt. xxvi. 75. Luke vii. 37, 38; xviii. 13, 14; xix. 8. 2 Cor. vii. 10, 11. James iv. 8, 9.

At Jesus' feet, where Mary sat and wept,
I would be always found, and there like her,
Pour out the affection of a melted soul
In godly sorrow, mixed with holy joy.

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Or if from thence I move to Calvary,
O may his wounded side and precious blood
Engage my thoughts, dissolve my stony heart,
And bid repentance flow in tears of love.

J. Irons.

EXHORTATIONS TO REPENTANCE.

Lev. xxvi. 40, 41. Deut. xxx. 1—3, 8. 2 Chron. xxx. 6, 7, 9. Isaiah i. 16; xxxi. 6. Jer. iv. 4. Lam. iii. 40, 41. Ezek. xiv. 6; xviii. 30. Hosea vi. 1; x. 12; xiv. 1. Joel ii. 13. Jonah iii. 7, 8. Matt. iii. 2; iv. 17.

Repent, the voice celestial cries,
No longer dare delay;
The wretch that scorns the mandate dies,
And meets a fiery day.

Doddridge.

MOTIVES TO REPENTANCE.

1 Sam. vii. 3. Neh. i. 9. Job xxii. 23. Psalm xxxii. 5. Isaiah xliv. 22. Jer. iii. 22; iv. 1—4; vii. 3; xxxvi. 3, 7. Ezek. xxxiii. 11. Zech. i. 3. Luke xv. 7, 10. Rev. ii. 5.

Who can describe the joys that rise
Through all the courts of Paradise,
To see a prodigal return,
To see an heir of glory born?

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With joy the Father doth approve
The fruit of his eternal love;
The Son with joy looks down, and sees
The purchase of his agonies.

The Spirit takes delight to view
The holy soul he form'd anew:
And saints and angels join to sing
The growing empire of their King.

Watts.

REPENTANCE, IF TRUE, WILL OBTAIN PARDON.

Lev. xxvi. 40—42. Deut. iv. 29. Prov. xxviii. 13. Isaiah lv. 7. Jer. xxvi. 3. Ezek. xviii. 21, 23, 32. Acts ii. 38.

Whene'er the wicked man
Turns from his sin to Thee,
His late repentance is not vain,
He shall accepted be.

C. Wesley.

REPENTANCE IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

Jer. xxxi. 18. Zech. xii. 10. Acts iii. 26; v. 31; xi. 18. Rom. ii. 4. 2 Tim. ii. 25.

Give us ourselves and Thee to know,
In this our gracious day;
Repentance unto life bestow,
And take our sins away.

Doddridge.

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DANGER IN DELAYING REPENTANCE.

Psalm xviii. 41. Prov. i. 28; xxix. 1. Isaiah lv. 6. Jer. vii. 13—16; xi. 10, 11; xiv. 10. Ezek. viii. 18. Micah iii. 4. Zech. vii. 13. Matt. xi. 21; xii. 41. Luke xiii. 3. Heb. iii. 7—13. Rev. ii. 5.

Early set forth on your eternal race,
The ascent is steep and craggy, you must climb;
God at all times has promised sinners grace,
If they repent, but He ne'er promised time.

Cheat not yourselves, as most who then prepare
For death, when life is almost turn'd to fume;
One thief was saved that no man need despair,
And but one thief, that no man might presume.

H. Delaume, 1657.

FALSE REPENTANCE.

Matt. viii. 12; xxvii. 3—5. 2 Cor. vii. 10.

And is there in God's world so drear a place
Where the loud bitter cry is raised in vain?
Where tears of penance come too late for grace,
As on th' uprooted flower the genial rain?

'Tis even so: the sovereign Lord of souls
Stores in the dungeon of his boundless realm,
Each bolt that o'er the sinner vainly rolls,
With gathered wrath the reprobate to whelm.

Keble.

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FAITH.

THE NATURE OF TRUE FAITH.

John xx. 31. Acts xv. 9. Rom. i. 16; x. 9. 1 Tim. i. 5. Heb. x. 39; xi. 1. Jude 20.

Faith's a convincing proof,
A substance sound and sure,
That keeps the soul secur'd enough,
But makes it not secure.

True faith's the life of God,
Deep in the heart it lies:
It lives and labours under load;
Though damp, it never dies.

True faith refines the heart,
And purifies with blood;
Takes the whole gospel, not a part,
And holds the fear of God.

Hart.

FAITH IN GOD IS NECESSARY TO PLEASE HIM.

Num. xx. 12. 2 Chron. xx. 20. Dan. vi. 23. Jonah iii. 5. Heb. xi. 6. 1 John v. 10.

Faith, like a simple, unsuspecting child,
Serenely resting on its mother's arm,
Reposing every care upon her God,
Sleeps on his bosom, and expects no harm.

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Receives with joy the promises he makes,
  Nor questions of his purpose or his power;
She does not doubting ask, Can this be so?
  The Lord has said it, and there needs no more.

However deep be the mysterious word,
  However dark, she disbelieves it not;
Where reason would examine, faith obeys,
  And "It is written," answers every doubt.

C. Fry.

SAVING FAITH IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

1 Cor. xii. 9. Ephes. ii. 8. Phil. i. 29. Col. ii. 12. Heb. xii. 2.

Faith is God's gift; a powerful grace,
  A wonder-working means!
Faith wafts the soul through boundless space,
  To range in distant scenes.

Anon.

THE EFFECTS OF FAITH ON THE HEART AND LIFE.

Acts vii. 59, 60; xv. 9. Rom. v. 1; xv. 13. 2 Cor. iv. 13. Gal. v. 6. 1 Thess. i. 3. Heb. xi. James ii. 21, 22. 1 Pet. ii. 7. 1 John v. 4.

By faith I overcome the world,
  And all its hurtful charms,
I'm in the heavenly chariot hurl'd,
  Through all opposing harms.

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By faith I can the mountains vast
  Of sin and guilt remove,
And them into the ocean cast
  Of my Redeemer's love.

By faith my melting soul repents,
  Whene'er the cross appears;
My heart in grateful praises vents,
  My eyes in joyful tears.

By faith I walk, I run, I fly,
  By faith I suffer thrall;
By faith I'm fit to live or die,
  By faith I can do all.

Erskine.

THERE IS A KIND OF FAITH A PERSON MAY POSSESS, AND YET NOT BE SAVED.

Matt. xxi. 21. 1 Cor. xiii. 2. 1 Tim. i. 19, 20. 2 Tim. ii. 17, 18. Heb. xi. 29 compared with Heb. iii. 17—19. James ii. 14, 17, 19, 26.

Mistaken souls, that dream of heav'n,
  And make their empty boast
Of inward joys and sins forgiv'n,
  While they are slaves to lust!

Vain are our fancy's airy flights,
  If faith be cold and dead;
None but a living faith unites
  To Christ the living Head.

Watts.

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HOPE.

Psalm cxlvi. 5. Rom. v. 2, 4, 5; viii. 24, 25. 1 Cor. xiii. 13. Gal. v. 5. 1 Thess. i. 3; v. 8. 2 Thess. ii. 16. Titus i. 2; iii. 7. Heb. iii. 6; vi. 18, 19. 1 Peter i. 3, 13.

Hope, with uplifted foot, set free from earth,
Pants for the place of her ethereal birth,
On steady wings sails through the immense abyss,
Plucks amaranthine joys from bowers of bliss,
And crowns the soul, while yet a mourner here,
With wreaths like those triumphant spirits wear.
Hope, as an anchor firm and sure, holds fast
The Christian vessel, and defies the blast.
Hope! nothing else can nourish and secure
His new-born virtues, and preserve him pure.

Cowper.

THE EFFECTS OF HOPE ON THE HEART AND LIFE.

Psalm cxix. 166. Acts xxiv. 15, 16. Rom. viii. 24, 25. 2 Cor. iii. 12. 1 Thess. i. 3. Titus ii. 13, 14. 2 Peter iii. 14. 1 John iii. 3.

A hope so much divine
May trials well endure,
May purge our souls from sense and sin,
As Christ the Lord is pure.

Watts

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FALSE HOPE.

Job viii. 13; xxvii. 8. Prov. xi. 7.

Hopes of every sort, whatever sect
Esteem them, sow them, rear them, and protect,
If wild in nature, and not duly found,
Gethsemane! in thy dear hallow'd ground,
That cannot bear the blaze of scripture light,
Nor cheer the spirit, nor refresh the sight,
Nor animate the soul to Christian deeds,
(Oh cast them from thee!) are weeds, arrant weeds.

Cowper.

CHARITY, OR LOVE.

Prov. x. 12. 1 Cor. viii. 1; xiii.; xvi. 14. Col. iii. 14. 2 Thess. i. 3. 1 Tim. i. 5; iv. 12. 2 Tim. ii. 22. 1 Peter iv. 8. 2 Peter i. 7.

Here see, acquitted of all vain pretence,
The reign of genuine Charity commence.
Though scorn repay her sympathetic tears,
She still is kind, and still she perseveres;
The truth she loves a sightless world blaspheme,
'Tis childish dotage, a delirious dream;
The danger they discern not, they deny;
Laugh at their only remedy, and die.
But still a soul thus touch'd can never cease,
Whoever threatens war, to speak of peace.
Pure in her aim, and in her temper mild,
Her wisdom seems the weakness of a child:

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She makes excuses where she might condemn,
Revil'd by those that hate her, prays for them;
Suspicion lurks not in her artless breast,
The worst suggested, she believes the best;
Not soon provoked, however stung and teased,
And, if perhaps made angry, soon appeased;
She rather waives than will dispute her right,
And, injured, makes forgiveness her delight.
Such was the portrait an apostle drew;
The bright Original was one he knew;
Heaven held his hand, the likeness must be true.

Cowper.

REASONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF GOOD WORKS.

I. THEY ARE COMMENDED IN SCRIPTURE.

Isaiah lviii. 7. John xxi. 17. 2 Cor. ix. 8. Col. i. 10. 1 Tim. ii. 10; vi. 18. 2 Tim. iii. 17. Titus iii. 8, 14. Heb. xiii. 16. James iii. 13.

"Feed my sheep," O words of graciousness,
O legacy of love to erring man
From their beloved Master! So should we
Hear thy blest voice, obey the high behest,
Seek out the sick, the suffering, the oppressed;
And through the haunts of guilt and poverty,
Still with deep love to all of human kind,
Spread the immortal light that purifies the mind.

Anon.

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II. GOOD WORKS ARE THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCES OF TRUE LIVING FAITH HERE, AND WILL BE SO AT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, ACCORDING TO WHICH A REWARD OF GRACE WILL BE GIVEN.

Job xxxiv. 11. Psalm lxii. 12. Prov. xxiv. 12. Jer. xvii. 10; xxxii. 19. Matt. xvi. 27; xxv. 31—46. Rom. ii. 6. 1 Cor. iii. 8. 2 Cor. v. 10. James ii. 17, 18. 1 Peter i. 17. Rev. ii. 23; xx. 12; xxii. 12.

Thou hast many a loved one in sorrow,
Who wanders along the bleak world all alone,
For such, from the good thou send'st would I borrow,
And this thou hast said, thou wilt look on and own.

In sadness, in poverty, sickness, or danger,
I would succour each child of my God that I see;
And the aid thus bestowed in the world on its stranger
One day thou wilt say was bestowed upon thee!

Edmeston.

III. THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO US AS SINNERS EXCITES US TO THE PRACTICE OF THEM.

Mark ix. 41. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15. Ephes. ii. 10. Titus ii. 14. Heb. vi. 10. 1 John iii. 17.

My prayers and alms, imperfect and defiled,
Are but the feeble efforts of a child;
Howe'er performed, this is their brightest part,
That they are offerings of a grateful heart.

Cleansed in thine own all-purifying blood,
Forgive their evil, and accept their good;
I cast them at thy feet; my only plea
Is what it was, dependence upon Thee.

Cowper.

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IV. WHEN PERFORMED FROM RIGHT MOTIVES, AND TO RIGHT ENDS, THEY TEND TO GLORIFY GOD.

Matt. v. 16. John xv. 8. 2 Cor. viii. 19; ix. 12, 13. Phil. i. 11. 1 Pet. ii. 12; iv. 11.

He shed his precious blood
To make us his alone;
If washed in that atoning flood,
We are no more our own.

We should maintain in view
His glory as our end;
Too much we cannot bear or do,
For such a matchless friend.

Newton.

V. THEY ARE FOR THE PROFIT AND ADVANTAGE OF OUR FELLOW-CREATURES AND OF OUR FELLOW-CHRISTIANS.

Gal. vi. 10. Titus iii. 8, 14. James ii. 14—16.

Awake our charity to feed
The hungry, and to clothe the poor.
In heaven are found no sons of need;
There all those duties are no more.
Shall we in worldly goods abound,
Yet nothing from our store impart?
How can the love of God be found
Within a cold and selfish heart?

Anon.

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THE CERTAINTY OF A FUTURE JUDGMENT.

Psalm i. 5; ix. 17. Eccles. iii. 17; xi. 9; xii. 14. Acts xxiv. 25. Heb. vi. 2; ix. 27. Rev. xx. 12, 13.

Great day! for which all other days were made;
For which earth rose from chaos, man from earth,
And an eternity, the date of gods,
Descended on poor earth-created man!
Great day of dread, decision, and despair!
At thought of thee, each sublunary wish
Lets go its eager grasp, and drops the world;
And catches at each reed of hope in heaven.

Young.

TO BE ADMINISTERED BY CHRIST.

Matt. xvi. 27; xxv. 31. John v. 22, 27. Acts x. 42; xvii. 31. Rom. ii. 16; xiv. 10. 2 Cor. v. 10. 2 Tim. iv. 1. 1 Peter iv. 5. Rev. xx. 12, 13; xxii. 12.

Thou Judge of quick and dead,
Before whose bar severe,
With holy joy, or guilty dread,
We all shall soon appear;
Our cautioned souls prepare
For that tremendous day,
And fill us now with watchful care,
And stir us up to pray—

To pray and wait the hour,
That awful hour unknown;
When robed in majesty and power,
Thou shalt from heaven come down;

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The immortal Son of man,
To judge the human race;
With all thy Father's dazzling train,
With all thy glorious grace.

C. Wesley.

MAN IS TO BE JUDGED FOR HIS THOUGHTS, HIS WORDS, AND HIS ACTIONS.

HIS THOUGHTS.

Eccles. xii. 14. Mal. iii. 16—18. Rom. ii. 15, 16. 1 Cor. iv. 5.

Great day of terror, vengeance, woe, despair;
Revealer of all secrets, thoughts, desires;
Reins-trying, heart-investigating day!

Pollok.

FOR HIS WORDS.

Matt. xii. 36.

And he that lived for pleasure, whom a lust
Of being heard, and making people stare,
And a most stedfast hate of silence, drove
Far wide of sacred truth, who never took
The pains to think of what he was to say,
But still made haste to speak, with merry tongue,
Like copious stream, for ever flowing on;
Read clearly in the letter'd heavens, what long
Before he might have read, For every word
Of folly, you, this day, shall give account.

Pollok.

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FOR HIS WORKS.

Job xxxiv. 11. Psalm lxii. 12. Prov. xxiv. 12. Eccles. xi. 9; xii. 14. Matt. xvi. 27. Rom. ii. 6. 1 Cor. iii. 13. 2 Cor. v. 10. 1 Peter i. 17. Rev. xx. 12, 13.

On that great day the solemn trump shall sound,
At whose voice
Th' unpeopled graves shall pour forth all their dead;
Then shall th' assembled nations of the earth
From every quarter, at the judgment-seat
Unite. * * * Here are they
Who sunk an aged father to the grave,
Or with unkindness hard, and cold disdain,
Slighted a brother's sufferings. Here are they
Who from the infant virgin tore her dower,
And ate the orphan's bread; who spent their stores
In selfish luxury; or o'er their gold,
Prostrate and pale, adored the useless heap.
Here too who stain'd the chaste connubial bed;
Who mix'd the poisonous bowl, or broke the ties
Of hospitable friendship; and the wretch
Whose listless soul, sick with the cares of life,
Unsummon'd, to the presence of his God
Rushed in, with insult rude. The Judge
Pronounces doom eternal on their heads,—
Perpetual punishment.

Glynn.

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FOR HIS SINS OF OMISSION.

Psalm ix. 17. Matt. xxv. 24—30, 41—46. Luke xii. 47, 48; xix. 20—26.

And he that was supposed to do nor good
Nor ill, surprised, could find no neutral ground,
And learned, that to do nothing was to serve
The devil, and transgress the laws of God.

Pollok.

A FINAL SEPARATION SHALL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

Psalm i. 5. Mal. iii. 18. Matt. xiii. 30, 49; xxv. 46.

In heaven appeared a host of angels strong,
And as a shepherd from the sheep divides
The goats; a husbandman, with reaping bands,
In harvest, separates the precious wheat,
Selected from the tares; so did they part
Mankind, the good and bad, to right and left,
To meet no more; these never more to share
Society of mercy with the saints;
Nor, henceforth, those to suffer with the vile.
Strange parting! not for hours, nor days, nor months,
Nor for ten thousand times ten thousand years;
But for a whole eternity.

Pollok.

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THE EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED.

Psalm ix. 17. Isaiah xxxiii. 14; lxvi. 24. Matt. iii. 12; xiii. 41, 42; xviii. 34; xxv. 41—46. Mark ix. 43—49. Luke xiii. 28. John v. 29; xv. 6. 2 Thess. i. 9. Heb. x. 27. 2 Peter iii. 7. Jude 7. Rev. xiv. 10, 11; xx. 10, 15; xxi. 8.

Most miserable beings,
Burning continually, yet unconsumed;
Dying perpetually, yet never dead;
For ever wasting, yet enduring still.
Groans that ended not, and sighs
That always sighed, and tears that ever wept,
And ever fell.
And Sorrow, and Repentance, and Despair
Among them walk'd, and to their thirsty lips
Presented frequent cups of burning gall.

Pollok.

Regions of sorrow! doleful shades! where peace
And rest can never dwell! hope never comes,
That comes to all; but torture without end
Still urges, and a fiery deluge, fed
With ever-burning sulphur unconsum'd!

Milton.

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PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

OUR DUTY TO OBEY GOD.

Gen. xxii. 1—3. Deut. v. 32, 33; xxvi. 16. Psalm cxix. 4. Prov. iii. 1. Jer. vii. 23; xi. 4, 7. 1 Cor. vii. 19. 1 John v. 3.

Thy will by me on earth be done,
As by the choirs above,
Who always see thee on thy throne,
And glory in thy love.

I ask in confidence the grace
That I may do thy will,
As angels who behold thy face,
And all thy words fulfil.

C. Wesley.

PROMISES TO OBEDIENCE.

Exod. xix. 5. Lev. xxv. 18, 19. Deut. iv. 1, 6; v. 29; vi. 3, 18, 19; vii. 12, 13; xi. 27; xiii. 17, 18; xxix. 9; xxx. 15, 16; xxxii. 46, 47. 1 Sam. xii. 14. 1 Kings ii. 3. 1 Chron. xxii. 12, 13. Job xxxvi. 11. Psalm xxxv. 10; cxix. 1, 2, 6. Prov. xix. 16; xxix. 18. Isaiah i. 19; xlviii. 18. Matt. v. 19; vii. 21; xii. 50. John vii. 17; xiii. 17. Rom. ii. 13. James i. 25. 1 John ii. 17; iii. 22. Rev. xxii. 14.

The man that offers humble praise,
He glorifies me best;
And those that tread my holy ways
Shall my salvation taste.

Watts.

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THREATENINGS TO DISOBEDIENCE.

Lev. xxvi. 14—16. Deut. xxviii. 15—23; xxix. 19—28. 1 Sam. xv. 23; 2 Chron. xxxvi. 16. Psalm cxix. 118. Prov. xiii. 13. Jer. xi. 3. Dan. ix. 11—14. Heb. xii. 25.

Appalling doom! yet hearts there are
  Its fearful truth have found,
Have known a heaven where sun nor star
  Its radiance sheds around;

A heaven of brass, from whose stern cope
  No living waters swell'd,
Whereon the rainbow arch of hope,
  The eye hath ne'er beheld;

An earth of iron, whose barren breast
  Seem'd icy cold and dead,
Where sterile paths, by joy unblest,
  In endless maze were spread.

These know how God's most holy will
  Can mar creation's face,
And leave the disobedient still
  No pleasant resting-place.

Barton.

OBEDIENCE MUST BE UNIVERSAL.

Deut. xxvii. 26; xxviii. 15. Psalm cxix. 6. Matt. v. 19. Gal. iii. 10. James ii. 10, 11.

Should only one transgression, Lord,
Be marked by thine all-seeing eye,
Thy holy law aloud proclaims,
The soul that sins shall surely die.

Anon.

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DUTY TO LOVE GOD.

Deut. vi. 5; x. 12; xxx. 16, 20. Josh. xxii. 5; xxiii. 11. Psalm xxxi. 23. Prov. xxiii. 26. Matt. xxii. 37.

With all thy hart, with all thy soule and mind,
Thou must God love, and his beheasts embrace;
All other loves, with which the world doth blind
Weake fancies, and stirre up affections base,
Thou must renounce, and utterly displace,
And give thyselfe unto him full and free,
That full and freely gave himselfe to thee.

Spenser.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD.

Exod. xx. 6. Deut. vii. 9; xi. 13, 14, 22, 23. Judges v. 31. Neh. i. 5. Psalm xci. 14; cxlv. 20. Prov. viii. 17. Dan. ix. 4. Rom. viii. 28. 1 Cor. ii. 9; viii. 3. Heb. vi. 10. James ii. 5. 1 John iv. 16.

O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
O love, how cheering is thy ray!
All pain before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away,
Where'er thy healing beams arise;
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek but thee.

C. Wesley.

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THIS LOVE IS PRODUCED BY GOD.

Deut. xxx. 6. Rom. v. 5. 2 Thess. iii. 5. 1 John iv. 7, 19.

I do not, cannot love thee as I ought;
Thy love must give that power,—thy love alone,
There's nothing worthy of thee, but thine own;
Lord, with thy love wherewith thou lovest me,
Shed in my heart abroad, would I love thee.

J. Montgomery.

NO TRUST TO BE PLACED IN ANY THING BUT GOD.

Job xxxi. 24—28. Psalm xxxiii. 16, 17; xliv. 6, 7; lii. 7, 8; lx. 11; lxii. 10; cxviii. 8, 9; cxlvi. 3. Prov. xi. 28. Isaiah ii. 22; xxx. 1; xxxi. 1. Jer. iii. 23; xvii. 5, 6; xlviii. 7. 2 Cor. i. 9. 1 Tim. vi. 17.

Trust not in rampires, nor the strength of walls,
The town that stands to-day, to-morrow falls;
Trust not in soldiers, though they seem so stout,
Where sin's within, vain is defence without;
Trust not in wealth, for in this lawless time,
Where prey is penalty, there wealth is crime;
Trust not in strength or courage, we all see
The weak'st oft-times do gain the victory;
Trust not in honour, honour's but a blast,
Quickly begun, and but a while doth last.
Trust not in friends, for friends will soon deceive thee,
They are in nothing sure, but sure to leave thee.
Trust not in counsels, potentates, or kings,
All are but frail and transitory things.

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Since neither soldiers, castles, wealth, or wit,
Can keep off harm from thee, or thee from it;
Since neither strength nor honour, friends nor lords,
Nor princes, peace or happiness affords:
Trust thou in God; ply him with prayers still,
Be sure of help, for he both can and will.

Browne.

Lean not on earth; 'twill pierce thee to the heart,
A broken reed at best, but oft a spear;
On its sharp point peace bleeds, and hope expires.

Young.

DUTY TO TRUST IN GOD.

1 Sam. xxx. 6. Job xiii. 15. Psalm lv. 22; lxii. 8; cxv. 9. Prov. iii. 5, 6. Isaiah l. 10. Jer. xlix. 11.

Hath God declared, and will he not perform?
Is he not worthy of our boundless trust?
He speaks, then let us in his words believe;
He bids, then let us his commands obey.

J. Jones.

MOTIVES TO TRUST IN GOD.

Num. xxiii. 19. Josh. xxiii. 14. 1 Chron. v. 20. 2 Chron. xiii. 18. Psalm ix. 10; xxii. 4, 5. Isaiah xxvi. 4. (See page 16.)

Didst thou not often find,
The very circumstance that pain'd thy mind
Did end in future joy?
And thou didst also find
Events, which seem'd at first most good, most kind,
Did bitterly annoy?

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Then leave all things to His will,
So little dost thou know what's good or ill,
Thou senseless worm of sin:
For He can bring forth good
Out of events which now seem dark and rude;
Then give the helm to Him.

M. B.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD.

2 Sam. xxii. 31. Psalm ii. 12; xxxi. 19; xxxii. 10; xxxiv. 22; xxxvii. 3, 5, 10; xl. 4; cxxv. 1. Prov. xvi. 20; xxix. 25; xxx. 5. Isaiah xxvi. 3; lvii. 13. Jer. xvii. 7, 8; xxxix. 18. Nahum i. 7.

All language must be faint
The blessedness to paint
Of those who put their trust, O Lord, in Thee;
Whose spirits upward soar
To Thee, who evermore
The refuge of the righteous deign'st to be.

Barton.

DECLARATIONS OF TRUST IN GOD.

2 Sam. xxii. 3. 2 Chron. xiv. 11. Psalm xxvi. 1; xxvii. 1; xxviii. 7; xxxi. 1; lii. 8; lvi. 3, 4, 11; lvii. 1; xci. 2. Isaiah xii. 2. Hab. iii. 17, 18. Rom. viii. 31. 2 Cor. i. 10. 1 Tim. iv. 10. 2 Tim. i. 12.

Barren although my soul remain,
And not one bud of grace appear,
No fruit of all my toil and pain,
But sin, and only sin is here;

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Although my gifts and comforts lost,
My blooming hopes cut off I see,
Yet will I in my Saviour trust,
Whose matchless grace can reach to me.

C. Wesley.

NONE TO BE FEARED BUT GOD.

Gen. xv. 1. Exod. xx. 20. Deut. vii. 17, 18. 1 Chron. xvi. 25. Psalm lxxvi. 7. Prov. xxix. 25. Isaiah viii. 12, 13; xli. 14; xliv. 2; li. 7, 12, 13. Jer. i. 8, 17. Ezek. ii. 6. Matt. x. 26, 28, 31. Mark iv. 40. John xiv. 27. 1 Peter iii. 14, 15.

The Christian holds no parley with unmanly fears;
Where duty bids, he confidently steers,
Faces a thousand dangers at her call,
And, trusting in his God, surmounts them all.

Cowper.

DUTY TO FEAR GOD.

Deut. vi. 13; x. 12. Josh. iv. 24; xxiv. 14. 1 Sam. xii. 24. Psalm ii. 11; xxxiii. 8; xxxiv. 9; lxxxix. 7; xcvi. 9. Prov. iii. 7; xxiii. 17. Heb. xii. 28. 1 Peter i. 17; ii. 17. Rev. xv. 4.

Humbled with feare and awfull reverence,
Before the footestoole of his majestie
Throw thyself downe with trembling innocence,
Nor dare looke up with corruptible eye
In the dred face of that great Deity,
For feare, lest if he chaunce to look on thee,
Thou turne to nought, and quite confounded be.

Spenser.

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MOTIVES TO THE FEAR OF GOD.

Deut. xxxii. 39. Job xiii. 11. Psalm xxxiv. 7, 9; ciii. 11—13, 17. Prov. i. 7; xiv. 26, 27; xxii. 4. Jer. x. 7. Luke xii. 5. Acts x. 36.

The fear of the Lord our days will prolong;
In trouble afford a confidence strong;
Will keep us from sinning, will prosper our ways,
And is the beginning of wisdom and grace.

The fear of the Lord is soundness and health,
A treasure well stored with heavenly wealth,
A fence against evil, by which we resist
World, flesh, and the devil, and imitate Christ.

The fear of the Lord forbids us to yield,
It sharpens our sword, and strengthens our shield;
Then cry we to heaven with one loud accord,
That to us be given the fear of the Lord.

Hart.

PROMISES TO THOSE THAT FEAR GOD.

Psalm xxv. 12—14; xxxiii. 18; lxxxv. 9; cxi. 5; cxii. 1; cxv. 13; cxxviii. 1; cxlv. 19; cxlvii. 11. Prov. xix. 23; xxviii. 14. Eccles. viii. 12. Mal. iii. 16; iv. 2. Acts xiii. 26.

The men that fear the Lord
In every state are blest;
The Lord will grant whate'er they want;
Their souls shall dwell at rest.

His secrets they shall share,
His covenant shall learn;
Guided by grace, shall walk his ways,
And heavenly truths discern.

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In his remembrance-book
The Saviour sets them down,
Accounting each a jewel rich,
And calls them all his own.

Hart.

THE NATURE OF GODLY FEAR.

Job i. 1. Prov. viii. 13; xiv. 16; xvi. 6.

There is a fear whose power
In dark temptation's hour,
Makes him who feels it firmer than the stoic;
A trembling in delight,
That gives the feeble might,
And renders the most humble most heroic!

Barton.

SLAVISH FEAR IS THE EFFECT OF GUILT.

Gen. iii. 8. Prov. xxviii. 1. Acts xxiv. 25. James ii. 19.
1 John iv. 18.

On man, in his own image made,
How much did God bestow!
The whole creation homage paid,
And owned him Lord below.

But oh, by sin how quickly changed!
His honour forfeited;
His heart from God and truth estranged,
His conscience filled with dread!

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Now from his Maker's voice he flees,
Which was before his joy,
And thinks to hide amidst the trees
From an all-seeing eye.

Newton.

EXAMPLES OF GODLY FEAR.

Gen. xxii. 12. Exod. i. 17. 1 Kings xviii. 13. Job i. 1. Acts ix. 31; x. 2. Heb. xi. 7.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN GOD OPPOSED TO FEAR.

Psalm iii. 6; v. 7; xxiii. 4; xxvii. 1, 3; xlvi. 1—3; cxviii. 6. Rom. viii. 31.

God is my strong salvation,
What foe have I to fear?
In darkness and temptation,
My light, my help is near.

Though hosts encamp around me,
Firm to the fight I stand;
What terrors can confound me,
With God at my right hand?

J. Montgomery.

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THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY.

Job xxxi. 24—28. Jer. xvii. 5. Rom. i. 25. 1 Cor. x. 7. Phil. iii. 19. Col. iii. 5. 2 Tim. iii. 2—4. 1 John ii: 15.

Whatever passes as a cloud between
The mental eye of faith, and things unseen,
Causing that brighter world to disappear,
Or seem less lovely, and its hope less dear:
This is our world, our idol, though it bear
Affection's impress, or devotion's air.

Jane Taylor.

DENUNCIATIONS AGAINST IDOLATERS.

Deut. xiii. 6—9; xvii. 2—6. Psalm xvi. 4; xcvii. 7. Ezek. xiv. 3—8. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. Ephes. v. 5. Rev. xxi. 8; xxii. 15.

PRAYER.

THE NATURE OF TRUE PRAYER.

Gen. xxxii. 26. Exod. ii. 23, 24. 1 Sam. i. 12, 13. Psalm ix. 12; x. 17; xxvii. 8; lxii. 8. Isa. xxx. 19. Matt. viii. 25. Luke xviii. 13. John iv. 24. Heb. x. 19, 22. 1 John i. 3.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,—
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

J. Montgomery.

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PRAYER IS A DUTY INCUMBENT ON ALL.

Matt. vii. 7. Luke xviii. 1. Acts viii. 22.

The prayer of the wicked is abhorred,
As an abomination to the Lord.
Their suits are sins, but their neglects no less,
Which can't their guilt diminish, but increase.
They ought like beggars, lie in grace's way;
Hence Peter taught the sorcerer to pray:
For though mere nat'ral men's address or prayers
Can no acceptance gain, or works of theirs,
Nor have as their performance any sway;
Yet as a divine ordinance they may;
But spotless truth hath bound itself to grant
The suit of none but the believing saint.
But let no Christless soul at prayer appear,
As if Jehovah were obliged to hear:
But use the means, because a sovereign God
May come with alms, in this his wonted road.

Erskine.

THE DUTY AND PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER.

2 Chron. vii. 14. Psalm cv. 4. Matt. vii. 7. Luke xviii. 1.
Phil. iv. 6. Col. iv. 2. 1 Thess. v. 17. 1 Peter i. 17.

Prayer was appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give;
Long as they live should Christians pray,
For only while they pray they live.

If pain afflict, or wrong oppress;
If cares distract, or fears dismay;
If guilt deject, if sin distress,
The remedy's before thee—pray.

Hart.

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A RIGHT PREPARATION FOR PRAYER.

Psalm lxvi. 18; cxlv. 18. Prov. xv. 8, 29; xxviii. 9. Isaiah i. 15; xxix. 13, 14; lix. 2. Mark xi. 25. John ix. 31. 1 Tim. ii. 8. James i. 6; iv. 3.

Praying hearts can never cherish
  Thoughts of bitterness or strife,
In their presence soon must perish
  Prayer's true element and life.
If from faith thy prayer upsprings,
Love must lend it heavenward wings.

Barton.

PRAYER SHOULD BE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

John xiv. 13, 14; xv. 16; xvi. 23. Ephes. ii. 18; v. 20. Col. iii. 17. Heb. iv. 15, 16; xiii. 15. 1 Peter ii. 5.

To heaven their prayers
Flew up, nor missed the way, by envious winds
Blown vagabond or frustrate: in they passed
Dimensionless, through heavenly doors; then clad
With incense, where the golden altar, fumed
By their great Intercessor, came in sight
Before the Father's throne: them the glad Son
Presents.

Milton.

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THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

Psalm xxxiv. 15; cxlv. 18. Isaiah xxx. 19. Jer. xxix. 12. Luke xi. 13. John xv. 7; xvi. 24. James i. 5; v. 15—17. 1 Peter iii. 12. 1 John iii. 22; v. 14. (See page 128.)

Prayer ardent opens heaven, lets down a stream
Of glory on the consecrated hour
Of man in audience with the Deity:
Who worships the great God, that instant joins
The first in heaven, and sets his foot on hell.

Young.

Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw,
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,
Gives exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above.

Cowper.

PRAYER SHOULD BE MADE OFTEN AND EARNESTLY.

Psalm lv. 17; lxxxvi. 3. Dan. vi. 10. Luke ii. 37; xi. 8; xxi. 36. Acts x. 2. Rom. xii. 12. Ephes. vi. 18. Col. iv. 2. 1 Thess. iii. 10; v. 17. 1 Tim. v. 5. 2 Tim. i. 3. 1 Peter iv. 7.

Thus, Lord, throughout my life would I
At stated times thy grace implore,
At morning, noon, and night, draw nigh
Thy throne, to worship and adore;

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For mercy every moment pray,
And never from thy praises cease;
But glide insensibly away
To raptures of eternal bliss.

C. Wesley.

PRAYER SHOULD BE WITHOUT OSTENTATION, AND IN PRIVATE.

2 Kings iv. 33. Matt. vi. 6; xiv. 23. Luke xviii. 13. Acts x. 9, 30.

Far from the world, O Lord, I flee,
From strife and tumult far;
From scenes where Satan wages still
His most successful war.

The calm retreat, the silent shade,
With prayer and praise agree;
And seem by thy sweet bounty made
For those who follow thee.

There if thy Spirit touch the soul,
And grace her mean abode,
O with what peace, and joy, and love,
She communes with her God!

There, like the nightingale, she pours
Her solitary lays;
Nor asks a witness of her song,
Nor thirsts for human praise.

Cowper.

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PUBLIC PRAYER.

1 Kings viii. 22—53. Luke i. 10. Acts i. 24; ii. 42; xx. 36; xxi. 5.

Though private prayer be a brave design,
Yet public hath more promises, more love,
And love's a weight to hearts, to eyes a sign.
We are but cold suitors: let us move
Where it is warmest. Leave thy six and seven,
Pray with the most, for where most pray, 'tis heaven.

Herbert.

EXAMPLES OF PRAYER.

Gen. xxiv. 12; xxxii. 9—12. Exod. xxxii. 11—13, 31, 32. Num. xiv. 13—19. Deut. iii. 23—25. 1 Sam. i. 10. 2 Sam. vii. 18—29. 2 Kings iv. 33; xix. 15—19; xx. 2, 3. 2 Chron. vi. 12; xiv. 11; xx. 6—12; xxxiii. 12, 13. Ezra ix. 6—15. Neh. ix. 5—36. Dan. ix. 3—19. Amos vii. 2, 5. Jonah ii. 1—9. Hab. iii. 1—19. Luke xi. 1—4; xxii. 32, 41—46. Acts i. 24; x. 2.

With wandering Jacob, let us say,
"If God will keep me by the way,
Guide and defend me, clothe and feed,
Then God shall be my God indeed."

With Him who led the ransom'd flock
Through the Red sea to Sinai's rock,
Be this our one supreme request,
"Thy presence with us go or rest."

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Like Joshua, through this war of life,
Victor in many a deadly strife,
May each this solemn pledge record,
"I and my house will serve the Lord."

When prayers and vows to heaven we make,
The words of Solomon we'll take,
Freely for every blessing call,
Yet ask forgiveness with them all.

And now, O Lord our God, to thee
The sum of our petitions be
The language of thy blessed Son,
"Father, thy will, not mine, be done."

J. Montgomery.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS.

Gen. xviii. 23; xx. 17; xxv. 21. Exod. xxxii. 11. Num. xi. 2; xii. 13. 1 Sam. xii. 23. Matt. v. 44. Luke x. 2. Acts vii. 60; xii. 5. Rom. i. 9; x. 1; xv. 30. 2 Cor. i. 10. Ephes. i. 16. Col. iv. 3. 1 Thess. v. 25. 2 Thess. iii. 1. 1 Tim. ii. 1. Heb. xiii. 18.

Shepherd of souls, with pitying eye,
  The thousands of our Israel see:
To thee in their behalf we cry,
  Ourselves but newly found of thee.

Extend to these thy pardoning grace;
  To these be thy salvation showed:
O add them to thy chosen race!
  O sprinkle all their hearts with blood!

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Still let the publicans draw near;
  Open the door of faith and heaven;
And grant their hearts thy word to hear,
  And witness all their sins forgiven.

C. Wesley.

PRAYER FOR ALL CONDITIONS OF MEN.

Ezra vi. 10. Jer. xxix. 7. Ephes. vi. 18. 1 Tim. ii. 1, 2.

The rulers of this Christian land,
'Twixt Thee and us ordained to stand,
Guide thou their cause, O Lord, aright,
Let all do all as in thy sight.

O by thine own sad burthen borne
So meekly up the hill of scorn,
Teach thou thy priests their daily cross
To bear as thine, nor count it loss.

Keble.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS TAUGHT PRAYER BY HIS EXAMPLE.

Matt. xiv. 23. Mark vi. 46. Luke v. 16; vi. 12; xxii. 32, 41—46. John xi. 41, 42; xii. 27, 28; xvii. Heb. v. 7.

O Thou by whom we come to God,
  The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The path of prayer thyself hast trod,
  Lord, teach us how to pray!

J. Montgomery.

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If thus our Lord himself withdrew,
  Stealing at times away
Ev'n from the loved, the chosen few,
  In solitude to pray:
How should his followers, frail and weak,
Such seasons of retirement seek!

Barton.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

Gen. xviii. 19. Josh. xxiv. 15. Jer. x. 25.

The priest-like father reads the sacred page,
  How Abram was the friend of God on high;
Or, Moses bade eternal warfare wage
  With Amalek's ungracious progeny;
Or how the royal bard did groaning lie
  Beneath the stroke of heaven's avenging ire;
Or Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing cry;
  Or rapt Isaiah's wild seraphic fire;
Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian's volume is the theme,
  How guiltless blood for guilty man was shed;
How He who bore in heaven the second name,
  Had not on earth whereon to lay his head:
How his first followers and servants sped;
  The precepts sage they wrote to many a land:
How he who lone in Patmos banished,
  Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand;
And heard great Babylon's doom pronounced, by
  Heaven's command.

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Then kneeling down, to heaven's eternal King,
The saint, the father, and the husband prays,
Hope springs exulting on triumphant wing,
That thus they all shall meet in future days;
There ever bask in uncreated rays,
No more to sigh or shed the bitter tear,
Together hymning their Creator's praise,
In such society, yet still more dear,
While circling time moves round in an eternal sphere.

Burns.

SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY FOR FORMS OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING.

Num. vi. 22—26; x. 35, 36. Deut. xxi. 7, 8; xxvi. 3, 5—10, 13, 15; xxxi. 19—21. 1 Chron. xxv. 1. Neh. xii. 46. Isaiah xii. Hosea xiv. 2, 3. Matt. vi. 9. Luke xi. 1, 2. Acts iv. 24. 2 Tim. i. 13.

I would not leave unsung
The lofty ritual of our sister land:
In vestment white, the minister of God
Opens the book, and reverentially
The stated portion reads. A pause ensues.
The organ breathes its distant thunder-notes,
Then swells into a diapason full:
The people rising sing, *With harp, with harp,*
And voice of psalms; harmoniously attuned
The various voices blend; the long-drawn aisles,
At every close, the lingering strain prolong.

Grahame.

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THE DANGER OF NEGLECTING PRAYER.

Psalm lxxix. 6. Jer. x. 25. Zeph. i. 4—6. Matt. xxvi. 41. James iv. 2.

Tremble, ye families profane,
Where the great God is not adored,
Who take the name of Christ in vain,
But do not advocate your Lord;
Regardless of his smile or frown,
Ye pull his heaviest judgments down.

Before the threatened curse takes place,
And sweeps your prayerless souls to hell,
Daily unite, t' implore his grace,
Invite him in your tents to dwell;
Let every house his worship show,
And every heart his presence know.

C. Wesley.

THE DUTY OF ASCRIBING PRAISE TO GOD.

Psalm xxii. 3; l. 23; lxvi. 2; lxvii. 3; lxix. 30—34; xcvi.; cxxxv. 3; cxxxviii. 1, 2; cxlvi. 1, 2, 10; cxlviii.; cxlix. 1—6; cl. Isaiah xxv. 1; xxxviii. 19. Acts ii. 47; xvi. 25. Heb. xiii. 15. 1 Peter ii. 9.

Praise, flow for ever, praise for ever flow!
Praise ardent, cordial, constant, to high heaven,
More fragrant than Arabia sacrificed,
And all her spicy mountains in a flame.
O may I breathe no longer, than I breathe
My soul in praise of Him who gave my soul,

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And all her infinite of prospect fair,
Cut through the shades of hell, great Love! by thee,
O most adorable! most unadored!
Where shall that praise begin, which ne'er should end?

Young.

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers:
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life, and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

Watts.

THE DUTY OF STANDING WHILE SINGING THE PRAISE OF GOD.

2 Chron. v. 12, 13; vii. 6; xx. 19, 21. Neh. ix. 5. Isa. vi. 2, 3. Dan. vii. 10. Rev. vii. 9, 10; xiv. 1—3; xv. 2—4.

Stand up, and bless the Lord,
Ye people of his choice;
Stand up, and bless the Lord your God,
With heart, and soul, and voice.

Stand up, and bless the Lord,
The Lord your God adore;
Stand up, and bless his glorious name
Henceforth for evermore.

J. Montgomery.

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THE DUTY OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

Lev. vii. 12. Psalm l. 14; lxix. 30; xcii. 1; cvii. 22; cxvi. 17. Rom. i. 8. Ephes. i. 6; v. 20. Col. i. 12; iii. 15, 17. 1 Thess. v. 18. 1 Tim. iv. 4. Heb. xiii. 15.

I thank thee, uncreated Sun,
That thy bright beams on me have shined;
I thank thee, who hast overthrown
My foes, and healed my wounded mind;
I thank thee, whose enlivening voice
Bids my freed heart in thee rejoice.

C. Wesley.

THE DUTY OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR FOOD.

Matt. xiv. 19; xv. 36. Luke xxiv. 30. Acts xxvii. 35. Rom. xiv. 6. 1 Cor. x. 31. Col. iii. 17. 1 Tim. iv. 3—5.

Fountain of being, Source of good!
At whose almighty breath
The creature proves our bane or food,
Dispensing life or death;

Thee we address with humble fear,
Vouchsafe thy gifts to crown,
Father of all, thy children hear,
And send a blessing down;

O may our souls for ever pine,
Thy grace to taste and see;
A thirst for righteousness divine,
And hungry after thee.

Anon.

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WE SHOULD HALLOW THE NAME OF GOD BY THE THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS.

Psalm xlviii. 9; lxxxvi. 11, 12; ciii. 1; cxix. 7. Isaiah viii. 13. Mal. iii. 16. 2 Cor. x. 5. 1 Peter iii. 14, 15.

BY THE WORDS OF OUR LIPS.

Psalm xxxiv. 3; lxix. 30; cxix. 171. Hosea xiv. 2. Luke i. 49; xi. 2. John xiii. 13. Heb. xiii. 15.

Father of all created things,
  Who dwell'st above in heaven,
All hallowed be thy holy name,
  To thee all praise be given!

Anon.

BY THE WORKS OF OUR HANDS.

Matt. v. 16. John xv. 8. 1 Cor. x. 31. Col. iii. 17. Titus iii. 8. 1 Peter ii. 12. (See page 158.)

Summoned my labour to renew,
  And glad to act my part,
Lord, in thy name my task I do,
  And with a single heart.

End of my every action Thou!
  Thyself in all I see;
Accept my hallowed labour now;
  I do it unto Thee.

C. Wesley.

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AGAINST CURSING AND SWEARING.

Exod. xx. 7; xxii. 28. Lev. xxiv. 15, 16, 23. Ps. lix. 12; cix. 17, 18. Eccles. x. 20. Matt. v. 34—36; xiv. 6—10; xxiii. 21, 22. Rom. xii. 14. James iii. 10; v. 12.

Take not His name, who made thy mouth, in vain,
It gets thee nothing, and hath no excuse.
Lust and wine plead a pleasure; avarice, gain:
But the cheap swearer through his open sluice
Lets his soul run for nought, as little fearing.
Were I an epicure, I could 'bate swearing.

Herbert.

Swear not; an oath is like a dangerous dart,
Which, shot, rebounds to strike the shooter's heart.

Randolph.

OATHS ARE LAWFUL ON SOME OCCASIONS.

Exod. xxii. 11. Deut. vi. 13. 2 Kings xi. 4. Neh. v. 12; x. 29. Psalm xv. 4. Matt. xxvi. 63. Rom. i. 9; ix. 1. 2 Cor. i. 23; xi. 31. Gal. i. 20. Heb. vi. 16. Rev. x. 6.

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

Gen. ii. 2, 3. Exod. xvi. 23—30; xx. 8—11; xxiii. 12; xxxi. 14—17; xxxiv. 21; xxxv. 2. Lev. xix. 30; xxiii. 3; xxvi. 2; Num. xv. 32—36. Deut. v. 12. Neh. x. 31; xiii. 15—22. Isa. lviii. 13. Jer. xvii. 21—24, 27. Ezek. xx. 12. Matt. xii. 1—12. Luke iv. 16, 31; xiii. 15. John vii. 23; xx. 19, 26. Acts xviii. 4; xx. 7. Rev. i. 10.

What says the prophet? Let that day be blest
With holiness and consecrated rest;
Pastime and business both it should exclude,
And bar the door the moment they intrude;

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Nobly distinguished above all the six
By deeds in which the world must never mix.
Hear him again. He calls it a delight,
A day of luxury, observed aright,
When the glad soul is made heaven's welcome guest,
Sits banqueting, and God provides the feast.

Cowper.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO OBSERVE THE SABBATH.

Exod. xx. 11. Isaiah lvi. 2, 6, 7; lviii. 13, 14. Ezek. xx. 20.

Days fixed by God for intercourse with dust,
  To raise our thoughts, and purify our powers
Periods appointed to renew our trust,
  A gleam of glory after six days' showers.

Foretastes of heaven on earth, pledges of joy,
  Surpassing fancy's flights, and fiction's story,
The preludes of a feast that cannot cloy,
  And the bright out-courts of immortal glory.

Barton.

THE DUTY OF ATTENDING THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD.

Lev. xix. 30; xxvi. 2. Psalm xliii. 3, 4; lxxxiv. 1—10; cxxii. 1—4. Luke iv. 16. Acts xiii. 44; xvii. 2; xx. 7. 1 Cor. xvi. 2. Heb. x. 25.

Sundays observe: think when the bells do chime,
'Tis angels' music, therefore come not late.
God there deals blessings; if a king did so,
Who would not haste, nay, give, to see the show!

Herbert.

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A REVERENTIAL DEPORTMENT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD IS INCUMBENT ON ALL.

Lev. xxvi. 2. Psalm v. 7; xlii. 4. Eccles. v. 1, 2. Isa. lvi. 7. Jer. vii. 30. Ezek. v. 11. Matt. xxi. 13. Acts xx. 7—9. 1 Cor. xiv. 30—33.

When once thy foot enters the church, be bare;
God is more there than thou; for thou art there
Only by his permission, then beware;
And make thyself all reverence and fear.
  Kneeling ne'er spoiled silk stocking, quit thy state,
  All equal are within the church's gate.

In time of service seal up both thine eyes,
And send them to thy heart, that spying sin,
They may wipe out the stains by them did rise.
Those doors being shut, all by the ear comes in.
  Who marks in church time others' symmetry,
  Makes all their beauty his deformity.

Let vain or busy thoughts have there no part,
Bring not thy plough, thy plots, thy pleasures thither;
Christ purged his temple; so must thou thy heart.
All worldly thoughts are but thieves met together
  To cozen thee: look to thy actions well,
  For churches either are our heaven or hell.

Herbert.

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BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO BELIEVING WORSHIPPERS.

Exod. xxv. 22. 2 Chron. vii. 12—16. Psalm xxxvi. 8; lxv. 4; lxxxiv. 4, 10. Cant. ii. 3. Isaiah lvi. 7. Matt. xviii. 20.

The house of my God is the dwelling of prayer,
Is the temple all hallowed by blessing and praise;
If sorrow and faithlessness conquer me, there
My heart to the throne of his grace I can raise;
There comfort, refreshing, and teaching are found,
The communion of saints, the remembrance of thee;
There's something of heaven in all that's around,
There's something consoling in all that we see;
There's something that speaks of a future of peace,
To the pilgrim a home, and a long-desired shore;
Where all that on earth has perplexed him shall cease,
And anguish and grief shall attack him no more.

Edmeston.

DILIGENCE IN OUR CALLINGS.

Exod. xx. 9. Prov. vi. 6; x. 4; xii. 24; xiii. 4; xxii. 29; xxvii. 23. Acts xx. 33—35 Rom. xii. 11. Ephes. iv. 28. 1 Thess. iv. 11. 2 Thess. iii. 10—12.

Let thy mind still be bent, still plotting, where,
And when, and how, the business may be done.
Slackness breeds worms: but the sure traveller
Though he alight sometimes, still goeth on.
Active and stirring spirits live alone,
Write on the others, "Here lies such a one."

Herbert.

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DILIGENCE IN OUR SPIRITUAL CONCERNS.

Deut. iv. 9. Prov. iv. 23. Eccles. ix. 10. John vi. 27. 1 Cor. ix. 24; xv. 58. Gal. vi. 9. Phil. ii. 12; iii. 14. 2 Thess. iii. 13. Heb. vi. 12; xii. 1, 2. 2 Peter i. 5—10; iii. 14.

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil,
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will.

C. Wesley.

DUTY OF PARENTS.

Gen. xviii. 19. Exod. xii. 26, 27. Deut. iv. 9; vi. 7; xi. 19; xxxii. 46. Josh. iv. 21, 22. 1 Sam. iii. 13. Job i. 5. Psalm lxxviii. 5—7. Prov. xiii. 24; xix. 18; xxii. 6, 15; xxiii. 13, 14; xxix. 15, 17. Joel i. 3. 2 Cor. xii. 14. Eph. vi. 4. Col. iii. 21. 1 Tim. iii. 4; v. 8. Titus ii. 4.

Parents are bound to cast the minds of youth
Betimes into the mould of heavenly truth,
That taught of God they may indeed be wise,
Nor ignorantly wandering, miss the skies.

Cowper.

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PROMISES TO PARENTS.

Prov. x. 1; xv. 20; xxii. 6; xxiii. 24; xxix. 15, 17.

If on thy promised grace alone
We faithfully depend,
Thou surely wilt preserve thy own,
And keep them to the end—

Wilt make us tenderly discreet
To guard what thou hast given,
And bring our child with us to meet
At thy right hand in heaven.

C. Wesley.

DUTY OF CHILDREN.

Exod. xx. 12. Lev. xix. 3. Prov. i. 8, 9; vi. 20; xiii. 1; xv. 5; xix. 26; xxiii. 22; xxix. 3; xxx. 17. Mal. i. 6. Matt. xv. 4—6. Ephes. vi. 1, 2. Col. iii. 20. 1 Tim. v. 4.

To honour those who gave us birth,
To cheer their age, to feel their worth,
Is God's command to human kind,
And owned by every grateful mind.

Noel.

EXAMPLES OF OBEDIENT CHILDREN.

Gen. ix. 23; xxii. 7—9. Exod. xviii. 7. Ruth i. 16, 17. 1 Kings ii. 19. Esther ii. 20. Jer. xxxv. 6, 7. Luke ii. 51. John xix. 26.

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EXAMPLES OF WICKED AND DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN.

JUDGMENTS DENOUNCED AGAINST THEM.

Gen. ix. 24, 25. Exod. xxi. 15, 17. Lev. xx. 9. Deut. xxi. 18—21; xxvii. 16. 2 Sam. xviii. 10—17. Prov. x. 1; xx. 20; xxviii. 24; xxx. 17. Matt. xv. 4.

DUTY TO THE AGED.

Lev. xix. 32. 2 Kings ii. 23, 24. Job xxxii. 4. Isa. iii. 5. 1 Tim. v. 1, 2. 1 Peter v. 5.

Kind cares and watchful love should try
To meet the wishes of their eye,
And gentleness should be the power
To sweeten life's declining hour;
And love should lighten and sustain
Days of infirmity and pain,
And, soft as prayer should be the tread
Of footstep round the aching head,
And many a deep and holy thought
Of fond affection's influence wrought,
In tender duty should expand,
Kind look, meek word, and willing hand.

Anon.

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THE DUTY OF SUBJECTS.

Exod. i. 17, 20, 21; xxii. 28. Deut. xvii. 8—13. 1 Sam. x. 24; xxiv. 6, 8, 10. 1 Kings i. 23, 24. Prov. xx. 2; xxiv. 21; xxv. 6, 7. Eccles. viii. 2—4; x. 4, 20. Dan. iii. 15—18; vi. 21. Matt. xvii. 24—27; xxii. 21. Acts iv. 18—20; v. 27—29; xix. 36—40; xxiii. 2—5. Rom. xiii. 1—7. 1 Tim. ii. 1, 2. Titus iii. 1. Heb. xi. 23, 27. 1 Peter ii. 13—15, 17. 2 Peter ii. 10, 11.

O King of kings! Thy blessings shed
On our anointed Sovereign's head;
And looking from thy holy heaven,
Protect the crown that thou hast given.

Him may we honour and obey;
Uphold his right and lawful sway:
Remembering that the powers that be,
Are ministers ordained of thee.

Anon.

THE DUTY OF SHOWING DUE RESPECT TO ALL MEN.

Gen. xxiii. 5—7, 11, 12; xxxiii. 14, 15. Lev. xix. 32. Prov. xxv. 6. Matt. v. 47. Luke xiv. 8. Rom. xii. 10; xiii. 7. Phil. ii. 3. 1 Peter ii. 17; iii. 8; v. 5.

Hast thou unto superiors paid
The honour justly due?
To those in thy own sphere displayed
Love, cordial, prompt, and true?

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Hast thou unto inferiors shown
  The kindness they should claim,
Forborne all haughtiness of tone,
  And each opprobrious name?

Barton.

THE DUTY OF SERVANTS.

Gen. xxiv. 1—66; xxxi. 6. Psalm cxxiii. 2. Prov. xviii. 9. Mal. i. 6. Matt. x. 24. Ephes. vi. 7. Col. iii. 22, 23. 1 Tim. vi. 1. Titus ii. 9, 10. 1 Peter ii. 18.

Is he a servant? with obedient hands
His master's pleasure daily he performs,
Remembering all the while he serves his Lord,
By walking in the steps his Lord ordains.
If those he serves be enemies to God,
He'll manifest himself the Saviour's friend
By meek deportment. If they love the Lord
He counts it double honour to obey.
Conscious he's "heir to heaven," he cares not much
Who rules below, so he may dwell in peace,
Useful to men, and happy in his God.

Swain.

PROMISES TO SERVANTS.

Prov. xiv. 35; xvii. 2; xxvii. 18. 1 Cor. vii. 21, 22. Eph. vi. 8. Col. iii. 23, 24.

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THE DUTY OF SHUNNING ALL MALICE AND REVENGE.

Gen. ix. 6. Exod. xx. 13. Lev. xix. 8. Matt. xxvi. 51, 52. Luke ix. 55, 56. Rom. xii. 19. 1 Cor. v. 8; xiv. 20. Ephes. iv. 31. Col. iii. 8. 1 Peter ii. 1, 16.

My foe, when hungry, let me feed,
Share in his grief, supply his need;
The haughty frown may I not fear,
But with a lowly meekness bear.

Let the envenomed heart and tongue,
The hand outstretched to do me wrong,
Excite no feelings in my breast
But such as Jesus once expressed.

Beddome.

AGAINST STRIFE AND DIVISION.

Psalm xxxiv. 14. Prov. xvii. 14; xx. 3; xxvi. 17. Matt. v. 39. Rom. xiii. 13. 1 Cor. i. 10; iii. 3. 2 Thess. iii. 11, 12. James iii. 14—16. 1 Peter iv. 15.

Clamour, and wrath, and war, begone;
Envy and spite for ever cease;
Let bitter words no more be known
Amongst the saints, the sons of peace.

Watts.

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THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT MAY BE UNDERSTOOD AS APPLICABLE TO THE SPIRITUAL INTERESTS OF OUR BROTHER.

Psalm li. 14. Ezek. iii. 19. Acts xviii. 6; xx. 26.

Am I my brother's keeper? he did ask,
Who first a brother smote. He did assay
Before the all-seeing One his brow to mask
In ignorance. And in this latter day,
When thousands sink, to worse than death a prey,
A living voice goes up into the skies,
Am I my brother's keeper? man again replies.
And God hath answered,—not by flames of fire,
His messengers; not as on Sinai,
By voice of thunders, which, as though in ire,
Pealed forth the terrors of his majesty,
But by communion with our spirits, by
The ensamples of his everlasting love
Which are around, by precepts from on high,
In peace and mercy sent, which bid us prove,
By love to man below, our faith in God above.

Anon.

THE DUTY OF FORGIVENESS.

Exod. xxiii. 4. Prov. xix. 11. Matt. vi. 15; xviii. 21, 26—35.
Luke xvii. 4. Ephes. iv. 32. Col. iii. 13. 1 Thess. v. 15.

Ransomed sinner! wouldst thou know
How often to forgive,
How dearly to embrace thy foe;
Look where thou hop'st to live:

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When thou hast told those isles of light,
And fancied all beyond,
Whatever owns in depth or height,
Creation's wondrous bond;

Then in their solemn pageant learn
Sweet mercy's praise to see,
Their Lord resigned them all to earn
The bliss of pardoning thee.

Keble.

EXAMPLES OF FORGIVENESS.

2 Sam. xix. 19—23. Job xxxi. 29, 30. Psalm xxxv. 11—14. Luke xxiii. 34. Acts vii. 60. 1 Cor. iv. 12, 13. 1 Peter ii. 23.

When upon the cross he bled,
With all his foes in view,
"Father, forgive them," 'twas he said,
"They know not what they do."

Newton.

"'Tis from the Lord," the humbled monarch cried,
"E'en let him curse." And so he kissed the rod,
O'erlooked the injurer, and bowed to God.

Conder.

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The martyr first, whose eagle eye
  Could pierce beyond the grave;
Who saw his Master in the sky,
  And called on him to save.

Like Him, with pardon on his tongue,
  In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for them that did the wrong:
  Who follows in his train?

Heber.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO EXERCISE FORGIVENESS.

Prov. xx. 22; xxv. 21, 22. Matt. v. 44, 45. Mark xi. 25. Rom. xii. 20. 1 Peter iii. 9.

AGAINST ANGER.

Gen. iv. 5, 6; xlix. 6, 7. Job v. 2. Psalm xxxvii. 8. Prov. xiv. 17; xv. 1, 18; xvi. 32; xxix. 22. Eccles. vii. 9. Matt. v. 22. Gal. v. 14, 15. Ephes. iv. 26, 31. Col. iii. 8. Titus i. 7. James i. 19.

To others let me always give,
What I from others would receive,
Good deeds for evil ones return,
Nor when provoked, with anger burn.

Beddome.

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AGAINST ENVY.

Gen. iv. 5, 6; xxvi. 14—16; xxx. 1; xxxvii. 4, 11, 20. 1 Sam. xviii. 8. Psalm xxxvii. 1; cvi. 16, 17. Prov. iii. 31; xiv. 30; xxiii. 17; xxiv. 19; xxvii. 4. Eccles. ix. 6. Rom. i. 29; xiii. 13. 1 Cor. iii. 3. Gal. v. 21. Titus iii. 3. Jas. iii. 14; v. 9. 1 Peter ii. 1. 1 John iii. 12.

Let envy and ill-will
Be banished far away;
And all in Christian bonds unite,
Who the same Lord obey.

Beddome.

AGAINST DRUNKENNESS.

Gen. ix. 20, 21; xix. 33. Deut. xxi. 20, 21; xxix. 18—20. 1 Kings xvi. 9, 10; xx. 16, 17, 20. Prov. xx. 1; xxiii. 20, 21, 29, 32; xxxi. 4, 5. Isaiah v. 11, 22; xxviii. 7, 8; lvi. 12. Hosea iv. 11. Joel i. 5. Amos vi. 1, 6. Nahum i. 10. Hab. ii. 15, 16. Luke xii. 45, 46. Rom. xiii. 13. 1 Cor. v. 11; vi. 10. Gal. v. 21. Ephes. v. 18. 1 Thess. v. 7, 8.

Fly drunkennesse, whose vile incontinence
Takes both away thy reason and thy sense,
Till with Circean cups, thy mind possessed,
Leaves to be man, and wholly turns to beast:
Thinke, while thou swallowest the capacious bowle,
Thou lett'st in seas, to wrecke and drowne the soule;
That hell is open, to remembrance call,
And think how subject drunkards are to fall.

Randolph.

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THE DUTY OF HUSBANDS.

Gen. ii. 24. 1 Sam. i. 8. Prov. v. 18. Mal. ii. 14. Matt. xix. 5, 6. 1 Cor. vii. 3, 11. Ephes. v. 25, 28. Col. iii. 19. Heb. xiii. 4. 1 Peter iii. 7.

Is he a husband? every tender proof
Of dear affection, and unceasing care,
That marks that character, when best sustained,
Constant he gives; and rises higher still
In kind concern for that which never dies.

Swain.

THE DUTY OF WIVES.

Gen. iii. 16. Prov. xii. 4; xix. 14. Rom. vii. 2, 3. 1 Cor. vii. 3; xiv. 34, 35. Ephes. v. 22. Col. iii. 18. Titus ii. 4, 5. Heb. xiii, 4. 1 Peter iii. 1, 5, 6.

Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance; commits his body
To painful labour, both by sea and land;
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,
While thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;
And craves no other tribute at thy hands,
But love, fair looks, and true obedience;
Too little payment for so great a debt.

Shakspeare.

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I want the mistress of my board,
The guardian of my little hoard,
The ruler of my small domain,
The mistress of my infant train;
My best adviser, surest guide,
Of faith approved, of wisdom tried,
The soother of each pain and grief,
In toil and care the sweet relief;
The cheerful partner of my day,
With whom the hours roll swift away.

Aikin.

AGAINST IMPURITY.

Exod. xx. 14. Lev. xx. 10. Prov. v. 3, 4, 8, 11; vi. 24—26, 32; vii. 10, 13—22, 23; xxii. 14; xxxi. 3. Jer. v. 7, 9; vii. 9, 10; xiii. 27; xxix. 23. Hosea iv. 1—3. Matt. v. 28; xv. 19, 20; xix. 9. Rom. xiii. 13. 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17; v. 1, 9—11; vi. 9, 10. 2 Cor. xii. 20, 21. Gal. v. 19, 21. Ephcs. v. 3—6. Col. iii. 5. Heb. xiii. 4. Rev. xxi. 8; xxii. 15.

Beware of lust; it doth pollute and foul
Whom God in baptism washed with his own blood,
It blots the lesson written in thy soul;
The holy lines cannot be understood;
How dare those eyes upon a Bible look,
Much less towards God, whose lust is all their book?

Herbert.

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AGAINST THEFT.

Exod. xx. 15; xxi. 16; xxii. 1—4. Lev. xix. 11—13. Jer. vii. 9—11. Hosea iv. 2, 3. Zech. v. 3, 4. Matt. xv. 18, 19. Mark x. 19. Rom. xiii. 9. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. Ephes. iv. 28.

Thou shalt not or from friend or foe,
Take aught by force or stealth;
Thy goods, thy stores, make grow from right,
Or God will curse thy wealth.

Anon.

THE DUTY OF BEING JUST AND HONEST TO ALL MEN.

Lev. xix. 11, 13, 35, 36. Prov. xi. 1; xxi. 3. Jer. xxii. 13. Micah vi. 8. Luke iii. 13, 14. Rom. xiii. 7, 8. 1 Cor. vi. 8, 9. Phil. iv. 8. James v. 4.

No slave to profit, shame, or fear,
O may my stedfast bosom bear
The stamp of heaven, an honest heart,
Above the mean disguise of art.

H. Moore.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO ARE JUST AND HONEST.

Deut. xvi. 20; xxv. 15. Psalm xv. 1, 4, 5. Prov. xii. 21. Isaiah xxxiii. 15, 16; lvi. 1, 2. Ezek. xviii. 5, 9.

He never deals in bribing gold,
And mourns that justice should be sold;
While others gripe and grind the poor,
Sweet charity attends his door.

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Yet, when his holiest works are done,
His soul depends on grace alone.
This is the man thy face shall see,
And dwell, for ever, Lord, with thee.

Watts.

AGAINST BRIBERY.

Exod. xxiii. 8. Deut. xvi. 19. 1 Sam. viii. 3. Prov. xvii. 23; xxv. 14. Eccles. vii. 7. Isaiah v. 23. Amos ii. 6; v. 12.

Judges, who rule the world by laws,
Will ye despise the righteous cause,
When th' injured poor before you stands?
Dare you condemn the righteous poor,
And let rich sinners 'scape secure,
While gold and greatness bribe your hands?
Have you forgot, or never knew,
That God will judge the judges too?

Watts.

AGAINST LYING AND DECEIT.

Lev. xix. 11. Psalm iv. 2; v. 6; l. 19; lii. 3; lv. 23; lviii. 3; lxiii. 11; ci. 7; cxix. 163; cxx. 2. Prov. vi. 16, 17, 19; xii. 22; xiii. 5; xix. 5, 9; xx. 17; xxiv. 28. Isaiah xxx. 9. Hosea iv. 1, 2. Zech. viii. 16. John viii. 44. Acts v. 3—10. 1 Cor. v. 8. Gal. ii. 13. Ephes. iv. 25. Col. iii. 9. Rev. xxi. 8, 27; xxii. 15.

Lie not, but let thy heart be true to God,
Thy mouth to it, thy actions to them both.
Cowards tell lies, and those that fear the rod;
The stormy working soul spits lies and froth.
Dare to be true. Nothing can need a lie,
A fault which needs it most, grows two thereby.

Herbert.

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AGAINST SLANDER.

Exod. xxiii. 1, 7. Psalm xv. 3; l. 19—21; ci. 5. Prov. x. 18. Rom. i. 30. 2 Cor. xii. 20.

Oh never let us lightly fling
A barb of woe to wound another;
Oh never let us haste to bring
The cup of sorrow to a brother;
Each has the power to wound, but he
Who wounds that he may witness pain,
Has learned no law of charity,
Which ne'er inflicts a pang in vain.

Bowring.

AGAINST EVIL SPEAKING.

Psalm xxxiv. 13. Ephes. iv. 31. Titus iii. 2. James iv. 11. 1 Peter ii. 1.

He speaks the meaning of his heart,
Nor slanders with his tongue;
Will scarce believe an ill report,
Nor do his neighbour wrong.

Watts.

AGAINST TALE-BEARING.

Lev. xix. 16. Prov. xi. 13; xvii. 9; xviii. 8; xx. 19; xxvi. 20—22. Ezek. xxii. 9. 1 Tim. v. 13.

No slanders dwell upon his tongue;
He hates to do his neighbour wrong.
Scarce will he trust an ill report,
Nor vent it to his neighbour's hurt.

Watts.

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AGAINST COVETOUSNESS.

Exod. xx. 17. Josh. vii. 20—25. 1 Kings xxi. 1—9. 2 Kings v. 20—27. Psalm x. 3; cxix. 36. Prov. xv. 27; xxx. 8, 9. Eccles. iv. 8. Hab. ii. 9. Matt. vi. 19; xxvi. 14—16. Luke xii. 15. Rom. i. 28, 29. 1 Cor. vi. 10. Ephes. v. 5. Col. iii. 5. 1 Tim. vi. 7—10. Heb. xiii. 5. 2 Peter ii. 15.

Avarice, a second nature to the human mind,
Where self-love is the life of thought and deed;
But in some bosoms kindling all its fire,
And rendering man a hideous slave of self;
Mean wretch! the more he gets, the less he gives;
For ever greedy as the hungered shark,
That scents the dead among the waves afar—
Nature is nought to him; the darkened soul
Hath dimmed his eye—it glitters but for gold,
And that shall season his departing hour:
For what so grateful to the clammy touch
Of dying fingers, as to feel his gold,
While sighing o'er it with a farewell gaze,
He mourns the nothing of the wealthless soul?

R. Montgomery.

CONTENTMENT.

2 Kings iv. 13. Prov. xxx. 8, 9. Luke iii. 14. Phil. iv. 11. 1 Tim. vi. 6—8. Heb. xiii. 5.

Fierce passions discompose the mind,
As tempests vex the sea:
But calm content and peace we find,
When, Lord, we turn to thee.

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In vain by reason and by rule
  We try to bend the will;
For none but in the Saviour's school,
  Can learn the heavenly skill.

Since at his feet my soul hath sat,
  His gracious words to hear,
Contented with my present state,
  I cast on him my care.

Cowper.

THE DUTY OF RULERS.

Exod. xviii. 21; xxiii. 6, 8. Lev. xix. 15. Deut. i. 13, 16, 17; xvi. 18—20; xvii. 15—20; xxv. 1. 1 Sam. xii. 3, 4. 2 Sam. viii. 15. 1 Kings iii. 7, 9. 2 Chron. xix. 6, 7; xx. 5—12. Neh. v. 18; vii. 2. Job xxix. 16, 17. Psalm ii. 10, 11; lxxxii. 3, 4; ci. 6, 7. Prov. xi. 14; xvi. 12, 13; xviii. 5; xx. 8; xxv. 2, 5; xxix. 2, 4, 12, 14; xxxi. 4, 5. Isaiah iii. 15; xxxiii. 15, 16. Jer. xxii. 3, 15, 16. Micah iii. 1. Acts v. 38, 39. Rom. xiii. 3, 4. 1 Peter ii. 14.

O bright occasions of dispensing good;
How seldom used, how little understood!
To pour in virtue's lap her just reward;
Keep vice restrained behind a double guard;
To nurse with tender care the thriving arts;
Watch every beam philosophy imparts;
To give religion her unbridled scope,
Nor judge by statute a believer's hope;
To touch the sword with conscientious awe,
Nor draw it but when duty bids him draw;
To sheathe it in the peace-restoring close,
With joy beyond what victory bestows.

Cowper.

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PROMISES TO GOOD RULERS.

Deut. xvii. 18—20. Prov. xvi. 12; xx. 28; xxix. 14. Isaiah xxxiii. 15, 16.

Illustrious too, that morning, stood the man,
Exalted by the people to the throne
Of government, established on the base
Of justice, liberty, and equal right;
Great was his wisdom, great his cares, and great
His self-denial, and his service done.

Pollok.

RULERS ARE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GOD.

Psalm lxxvi. 12. Prov. viii. 14—16; xxi. 1. Dan. ii. 21; iv: 32. John xix. 11. Rom. xiii. 1.

Almighty Sovereign! whose resistless sway
Thine own creation, heaven and earth obey,
Oh impart
The faithful spirit and the loyal heart,
That man thy ruling influence may see,
And yield obedience to the powers that be.

Miss Colthurst.

THE DUTY OF MASTERS.

Gen. xviii. 19. Lev. xxv. 43. Deut. xxiv. 14, 15. Job xxxi. 13, 14. Mal. iii. 5. Matt. viii. 5, 6. Ephes. vi. 9. Col. iv. 1. James v. 4.

Is he a master? Mild in his commands,
In his requirements moderate and just,
With gentleness he rules; not soon provoked,
Nor long at once displeased. If he reproves,

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He aims at sin—resentment he denies;
Nor ever threatens but with special cause.
Aware of bright example's needful force,
He shows himself a pattern to his house.
Thus he learns
To soften blame with pity, nor expects
From others, what he finds not in himself;
Observing daily how his Lord rules him,
His government he strives to imitate,
And rules, as much as possible, by love.

Swain.

THE DUTY OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARY SOCIETY WITH THE WICKED.

Exod. xxiii. 2. Psalm xxvi. 4; ci. 4, 5; cxix. 63. Prov. i. 10, 15; iv. 14; ix. 6; xii. 11; xiii. 20; xiv. 7; xix. 27; xxii. 24, 25; xxiv. 1, 2. Rom. i. 32. 1 Cor. v. 9; xv. 33. 2 Cor. vi. 14, 17. Ephes. v. 7. 2 Thess. iii. 14.

Thrice happy he who shuns the way
That leads ungodly men astray;
Who fears to stand where sinners meet,
Nor with the scorner takes his seat.

J. Montgomery.

UNAVOIDABLE SOCIETY WITH THE WICKED MAY DO GOOD.

Matt. ix. 10. Mark ii. 15. Luke xv. 2. John xvii. 15. 1 Cor. v. 10.

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THE DUTY OF MINISTERS.

THEY ARE TO HAVE A REGULAR CALLING.

John x. 1. Acts xxvi. 16. Rom. x. 15. Gal. i. 1, 12. Ephes. iii. 7. 1 Tim. iv. 14. Titus i. 3. Heb. v. 4.

Can all be prophets? then are all
Commissioned from above?
No; but whoe'er the Lord shall call
We joyfully approve.

C. Wesley.

THEY SHOULD BE REGULARLY ORDAINED AND APPOINTED.

Luke ix. 1, 2. Acts xiii. 2. Rom. i. 1. Ephes. iii. 7, 8. 1 Tim. ii. 7; iv. 14. 2 Tim. i. 6. Titus i. 5.

By solemn, awful ceremony, he
Was set apart to speak the truth entire,
By action and by word.

Pollok.

PREACHING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR OFFICE.

Matt. x. 7; xxviii. 19. Luke x. 9. Acts x. 42; xiii. 38. Rom. x. 8, 15. 1 Cor. i. 22, 23; xv. 11. 2 Cor. iv. 5; xi. 4. Col. i. 28. 1 Tim. ii. 7; iv. 6. 2 Tim. i. 11. Titus i. 3.

I preached as never sure to preach again,
And as a dying man to dying men.

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O how should preachers men's repenting crave,
Who see how near the church is to the grave!
And see that while we preach and hear, we die,
Rapt by swift time to vast eternity!
Surely God's messenger, if any man,
Should speak with all the seriousness he can,
Who treateth in the name of the Most High,
About the matters of eternity;
Who must prevail with sinners now or never,
As those who must be saved now, if ever,
When sinners' endless joy or misery
On the success of his endeavours lie.

Baxter.

THE SUBJECTS OF THEIR PREACHING.

Luke xxiv. 47. Acts v. 42; viii. 5; ix. 20; x. 42; xiii. 38; xvii. 2, 3; xx. 24. Rom. xv. 19. 1 Cor. i. 17, 23, 24; ii. 2. 2 Cor. iv. 5; v. 11. Gal. i. 16; iii. 1. Ephes. iii. 8.

There stands the messenger of truth; there stands
The legate of the skies! His theme divine,
His office sacred, his credentials clear.
By him the violated law speaks out
Its thunders; and by him in strains as sweet
As angels use, the gospel whispers peace.

Cowper.

He bore his great commission in his look,
But sweetly tempered awe; and softened all he spoke.
He preached the joys of heaven, and pains of hell,
And warned the sinner with becoming zeal;
But on eternal mercy loved to dwell.
He taught the gospel rather than the law,
And forced himself to drive, but loved to draw.

Dryden.

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THE PREACHED WORD INEFFICACIOUS WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Acts xvi. 14. 1 Cor. iii. 6; xv. 10. 2 Cor. ii. 15, 16; iii. 5. 1 Thess. i. 5.

Thy servants speak; but thou, Lord, dost
An hearing ear bestow:
They smite the rock; but thou, my God,
Dost make the waters flow:
They shoot the arrow; but thy hand
Doth drive the arrow home:
They call; but, Lord, thou dost compel,
And then thy guests are come.

Anon.

THEY SHOULD WARN AND REPROVE THEIR PEOPLE.

Isaiah lviii. 1. Jer. xxiii. 22. Ezek. ii. 7; iii. 17—21; xxxiii. 1—12. Acts xx. 26—31. 1 Cor. iv. 14. Gal. i. 8, 9; ii. 11—14. Phil. iii. 2. Col. i. 28. 1 Thess. ii. 11. 1 Tim. v. 20. 2 Tim. iv. 2. Titus i. 13; ii. 15. Heb. xiii. 7.

My brethren from my heart beloved,
Whose welfare fills my daily care,
My present joy, my future crown,
The word of exhortation hear.

Stand fast upon the solid rock
Of the Redeemer's righteousness;
Adorn the gospel with your lives,
And practise what your lips profess.

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Such is your pastor's faithful charge,
Whose soul desires not yours, but you;
O may he, at the Lord's right hand,
Himself and all his people view!

Gibbons.

THEY SHOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Matt. xxiii. 3. Acts xx. 33, 35. Rom. ii. 21. 2 Cor. vi. 4; vii. 2. Phil. iii. 17. 1 Thess. ii. 10. 2 Thess. iii. 7, 9. 1 Tim. iv. 12; vi. 11, 12. Titus ii. 7. 1 Peter v. 3.

His preaching much, but more his practice wrought,
A living sermon of the truths he taught.
For this by rule severe his life he squared,
That all might see the doctrines that they heard:
For priests, he said, are patterns for the rest;
The gold of heaven, who bear the God impressed;
But where the precious coin is kept unclean,
The Sovereign's image is no longer seen.
If they be foul on whom the people trust,
Well may the baser brass contract a rust.

Dryden.

THEY SHOULD BE DILIGENT.

Rom. xii. 7. 1 Cor. ix. 16. Phil. i. 20. Col. iv. 4. 1 Tim. iv. 6, 18, 15.

In his duty prompt at every call,
He watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all;
And as a bird each fond endearment tries,
To tempt its new-fledged offspring to the skies,
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,
Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way.

Goldsmith.

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THEY SHOULD BE PEACEABLE AND PATIENT.

1 Cor. ix. 12; x. 32, 33. 2 Cor. vi. 3. 1 Tim. iii. 3.
2 Tim. ii. 24.

He was humble, kind, forgiving, meek,
Easy to be intreated; gracious, mild;
And, with all patience and affection, taught,
Rebuked, persuaded, solaced, counselled, warned.

Pollok.

THEY SHOULD NOT BE WORLDLY-MINDED.

Acts xx. 33, 34. 1 Cor. x. 33. 1 Tim. iii. 3. 2 Tim. ii. 4.
Titus i. 7. 1 Peter v. 2.

The priestly brotherhood, devout, sincere,
From mean self-interest and ambition clear,
Their hope in heaven, servility their scorn,
Prompt to persuade, expostulate, and warn,
Their wisdom pure, and given them from above,
Their usefulness insured by zeal and love,
As meek as the man Moses, and withal
As bold as in Agrippa's presence, Paul,—
Should fly the world's contaminating touch,
Holy and unpolluted.

Cowper.

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GENERAL CHARACTER AND DUTIES OF MINISTERS.

Mal. ii. 7. Acts xx. 20. 1 Tim. i. 18, 19; iii.; iv. 6, 15, 16; v. 1, 19; vi. 11—14, 17—20. 2 Tim. i. 12; ii. 1, 14, 22, 25; iii. 14; iv. 2, 5. Titus i. 7—9; iii. 1, 2, 9, 10. 2 Pet. i. 12.

A man by God
The Lord, commissioned to make known to men
The eternal counsels; in his Master's name,
To treat with them of everlasting things,
Of life, death, bliss, and woe; to offer terms
Of pardon, grace, and peace, to the rebelled;
To teach the ignorant soul, to cheer the sad,
To bind, to loose, with all authority;
To give the feeble strength, the hopeless hope,
To help the halting, and to lead the blind;
To warn the careless, heal the sick of heart,
Arouse the indolent, and on the proud
And obstinate offender to denounce
The wrath of God.

Pollok.

Give me the priest those graces shall possess;
Of an ambassador the just address,
A father's tenderness, a shepherd's care,
A leader's courage which the cross can bear,
A ruler's awe, a watchman's watchful eye,
A pilot's skill, the helm in storms to ply,
A fisher's patience and a labourer's toil,
A guide's dexterity to disembroil,
A prophet's inspiration from above,
A teacher's knowledge, and a Saviour's love.

Bp. Kenn.

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EXAMPLES OF THE PRAYERS OF A FAITHFUL MINISTER.

Rom. xv. 5, 6, 13; xvi. 24. 1 Cor. i. 3; xvi. 23. 2 Cor. xiii. 7, 14. Gal. vi. 16, 18. Ephes. i. 16—19; iii. 16—19. Phil. i. 9—11. Col. i. 9—11. 1 Thess. iii. 11—13; v. 23. 2 Thess. i. 11, 12; ii. 16, 17; iii. 16. Philemon 4—6. Heb. xiii. 20, 21. 1 Peter v. 10.

Shepherd of souls, if thou indeed
Hast raised me up thy flock to feed,
(Thy meanest servant me)
O may I all their burthens share,
And gently in my bosom bear
The lambs redeemed by thee.

C. Wesley.

PROMISES TO FAITHFUL MINISTERS.

Deut. x. 9; xxxiii. 11. Isaiah xxxii. 20; xlix. 4. Jer. i. 7, 8, 19; xv. 19—21; xx. 11. Ezek. iii. 8, 9. Dan. xii. 3. Matt. xxviii. 20. Luke xii. 42—44; xxi. 15. John iv. 36. 1 Tim. iv. 16. 1 Peter v. 2—4.

O! who can speak his praise? Great, humble man!
He in the current of destruction stood,
And warned the sinner of his woe, led on
Immanuel's armies in the evil day,
And, with the everlasting arms embraced
Himself around, stood in the dreadful front
Of battle high, and warred victoriously
With death and hell. And now was come his rest,
His triumph day. Illustrious like a sun,
In that assembly, he shining from far,

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Most excellent in glory, stood assured,
Waiting the promised crown, the promised throne,
The welcome and approval of his Lord.
Nor one alone, but many—prophets, priests,
Apostles, great reformers, all that served
Messiah faithfully, like stars appeared
Of fairest beam, and round them gathered, clad
In white, the vouchers of their ministry—
The flocks their care had nourished, fed, and saved.

Pollok.

RESPONSIBILITY INCURRED BY UNFAITHFUL MINISTERS.—THREATENINGS DENOUNCED AGAINST THEM.

Jer. viii. 10. Ezek. iii. 18; xiii. 14—16; xxxiii. 7, 8; xxxiv. 7—10. Acts xx. 26, 27.

Among the accursed, who sought a hiding-place
In vain, from fierceness of Jehovah's rage,
And from the hot displeasure of the Lamb,
Most wretched, most contemptible, most vile,
Stood the false priest, and in his conscience felt
The fellest gnaw of the undying worm;
And so he might, for he had on his hands
The blood of souls, that would not wipe away.
Hear what he was. He swore, in sight of God
And man, to preach his Master, Jesus Christ;
Yet preached himself: he swore that love of souls
Alone, had drawn him to the church; yet strewed
The path that led to hell with tempting flowers,
And in the ear of sinners, as they took
The way of death, he whispered peace.

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The man who came with thirsty soul to hear
Of Jesus, went away unsatisfied;
For he another gospel preached than Paul,
And one that had no Saviour in it; and yet
His life was worse. Ah me! what cursing then
Was heaped upon his head by ruined souls
That charged him with their murder!

Pollok.

THE DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS TOWARDS THE MINISTERS OF GOD.

TO HONOUR THEM.

1 Cor. iv. 1. Gal. iv. 14. Phil. ii. 29. 1 Thess. v. 12, 13. 1 Tim. v. 17. Heb. xiii. 17.

The pastors good, that doe gladd tidings preache,
The godlie sorte with reverence do embrace;
Though they be men, yet since Godd's worde they teache,
We honour them, and give them higheste place,
  Ambassadors of princes of the earthe
  Have royall seates, thoughe base they are by birthe.

G. Whitney, 1585.

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TO PRAY FOR THEM.

Rom. xv. 30. 2 Cor. i. 11. Ephes. vi. 19. Phil. i. 19. Col. iv. 3. 1 Thess. v. 25. 2 Thess. iii. 1. Heb. xiii. 18.

The incense of their prayers are shed
To call down plenteous blessings on his head,
That God, the Spirit, might his soul inspire,
And touch his lips with coals of living fire;
Make him still ready to encounter shame,
To spend, and to be spent for Jesus' name;
That, through his ministry, souls might be won;
All things accomplished—nothing left undone;
And from each storm, the pastor and his flock
Might shelter find, in Christ, the living Rock.

Miss Colthurst.

TO MAINTAIN THEM.

Num. xviii. 20—24. Neh. x. 37; xii. 44. Matt. x. 10. Luke x. 7. Rom. xv. 27. 1 Cor. ix. 7—11. Gal. vi. 6. 1 Thess. ii. 6. 2 Thess. iii. 8, 9. 1 Tim. v. 18. 2 Tim. ii. 6. Heb. vii. 5.

TO FOLLOW THEM SO FAR AS THEY FOLLOW CHRIST.

1 Cor. iv. 16; xi. 1. Phil. iii. 17; iv. 9. 1 Thess. i. 6. 2 Thess. iii. 7. Heb. xiii. 7.

O holy servants of the Lord! to us may it be given
To follow you, as you have trod the narrow path to heaven;
That when the solemn call is heard, "Prepare to meet thy Lord,"
Joyful like you we may obey, and hasten at his word.

Anon.

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THE MANNER IN WHICH CHRISTIANS SHOULD HEAR THE WORD FROM THE MINISTERS OF GOD.

Matt. x. 40. Acts x. 33; xvii. 11. Gal. iv. 14. 1 Thess. ii. 13. Heb. iv. 2. James i. 21. 1 Peter ii. 2.

Judge not the preacher, for he is thy judge;
If thou mislike him, thou conceiv'st him not.
God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge
To pick out treasures from an earthen pot;
The worst speak something good. If all want sense,
God takes a text, and preacheth patience.
He that gets patience, and the blessing which
Preachers conclude with, hath not lost his pains.
Jest not at preacher's language or expression,
How knowest thou but thy sin made him miscarry?
Then turn thy faults and his into confession;
God sent him, whatsoe'er he be. O tarry
And love him for his Master! His condition,
Though it be ill, makes him no ill physician.

Herbert.

GENERAL DUTIES TOWARDS THEM.

Luke x. 16. 1 Cor. xvi. 10—16. 1 Thess. v. 12. Heb. xiii. 7, 17.

We bid thee welcome in the name
Of Jesus, our exalted Head;
Come as a servant,—so he came,
And we receive thee in his stead.

J. Montgomery.

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And they would bear with him, in all things bear,
His burden lighten, his affliction share;
They feel his ministry of heaven approved,
And still they love him, e'en as they are loved.

Miss Colthurst.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE AND HEARKEN TO THEIR MINISTERS.

Deut. xiv. 29. 2 Chron. xx. 20. Mal. iii. 10, 11. Matt. x. 40, 41. Luke x. 16. John xiii. 20.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS REPRESENTED AS ONE FAMILY.

John x. 16; xvii. 22, 23. Rom. xii. 5. 1 Cor. x. 17; xii. 13—26. Gal. iii. 28. Ephes. i. 10; ii. 19; iv. 5, 6, 13; v. 30. Col. i. 24; iii. 11.

One family, we dwell in him,
One church, above, beneath,
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.

One army of the living God,
To his command we bow;
Part of his host have crossed the flood,
And part is crossing now.

C. Wesley.

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UNITY SHOULD EXIST AMONG CHRISTIANS.

Gen. xiii. 8, 9. Psalm cxxxiii. 1, 2. John xvii. 22, 23. Acts iv. 32. Rom. xii. 16; xv. 5. 1 Cor. i. 10. 2 Cor. xiii. 11. Ephes. iv. 3. Phil. i. 27; ii. 2; iv. 2. 1 Peter iii. 8.

Let party names no more
The Christian world o'erspread,
Gentile and Jew, and bond and free,
Are one in Christ, their Head.

Among the saints on earth
Let mutual love be found,
Heirs of the same inheritance,
With mutual blessings crowned.

Beddome.

THEY SHOULD LIVE PEACEABLY.

Gen. xiii. 8, 9. Psalm xxxiv. 14. Zech. viii. 19. Matt. v. 9. Mark ix. 50. Rom. xii. 18; xiv. 19. 1 Cor. vii. 15. 2 Cor. xiii. 11. Ephes. iv. 3. 1 Thess. v. 13. 2 Tim. ii. 22, 23. Heb. xii. 14. James iii. 17, 18.

Lord! while the factious world divide,
And madly rage and fight,
May those for whom the Saviour died
His little flock unite.

May sinners saved, of every name,
And saved by grace alone,
Their faith, their hope, their Lord the same,
Join all their hearts in one.

T. Walker.

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THEY SHOULD LOVE EACH OTHER.

Lev. xix. 18. Matt. xxii. 39, 40. John xiii. 34, 35; xv. 12, 13, 17. Rom. xii. 9, 10; xiii. 8. Gal. v. 6, 13. Ephes. iv. 2; v. 2. Phil. i. 9. Col. i. 4; ii. 2. 1 Thess. iii. 12; iv. 9, 10. Heb. xiii. 1. James ii. 8. 1 John ii. 9—11; iii. 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19; iv. 7, 14, 20, 21. 2 John 5.

Let love in one delightful stream
  Through every bosom flow;
And union sweet, and fond esteem,
  In every action glow.

Love is the golden chain that binds
  The happy souls above;
And he's an heir of heaven who finds
  His bosom glow with love.

Anon.

THEY SHOULD BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

Deut. xxii. 1. Zech. vii. 9. Matt. xxv. 33—46. Rom. xii. 10. Ephes. iv. 32. Col. iii. 12. 1 Pet. iii. 8. 2 Pet. i. 7.

Be useful where thou livest: that they may
Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Kindness, good parts, great places, are the way
To compass this. Find out men's wants and will,
  And meet them there. All worldly joys go less
  To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

Herbert.

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THEY SHOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH EACH OTHER.

Job ii. 11, 13. Eccles. vii. 2. Rom. xii. 15. 1 Cor. xii. 25, 26. 2 Cor. i. 4. Gal. vi. 1, 2. Heb. xiii. 3.

How sweet is the tear of regret
That drops from humanity's eye;
How lovely the cheek that is wet,—
The bosom that heaves with a sigh!

Our own, or another's distress,
Will force the soft lustres to fall,
Nor can the mild bosom do less
Than grieve for the sorrows of all;

For he who has nought to impart,
May at least give the wretched a tear;
'Twill comfort the sorrowful heart,
When no other comfort is near.

J. Montgomery.

THEY SHOULD BE CANDID AND FORBEARING TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

1 Kings xix. 10, 18. Prov. x. 12. 1 Cor. xiii. 5—7. Gal. vi. 1. Ephes. iv. 2. Col. iii. 12, 13. James v. 20. 1 Pet. iv. 8.

Breathe thoughts of pity o'er a brother's fall,
But dwell not with stern anger on his fault:
The grace of God alone holds thee, holds all;
Were that withdrawn, thou too wouldst swerve and halt.

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Send back the wanderer to the Saviour's fold,
  That were an action worthy of a saint;
But not in malice let the crime be told,
  Nor publish to the world the evil taint.

Rebuke the sin, but yet in love rebuke;
  Feel as one member in another's pain;
Win back the soul that his fair path forsook,
  And mighty and eternal is thy gain.

Edmeston.

THEY SHOULD NOT JUDGE EACH OTHER.

1 Kings xix. 10, 18. Matt. vii. 1—4. Luke xviii. 11—14. John vii. 24. Rom. ii. 1; xiv. 4, 10, 13. 1 Cor. iv. 3, 5. James iv. 11, 12.

Thou self-created judge of human kind,
To vice quick-sighted, while to virtue blind;
Too prompt another's foibles to perceive,
Thine own, when hinted, backward to believe;
Before thou venture to rebuke a friend,
Consult thy conscience, and thy morals mend!
What title hast thou with suspicious eyes,
The motives of mankind to scrutinize?
Into their secret chambers canst thou see?
If darkness dwell there, what is that to thee?
Who to account another's servant calls?
He to his master only stands or falls.
If light thou love, sincerely loathing sin,
The reformation of thyself begin.

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For what art thou, contemner of thy kind,
But naked, poor, weak, miserable, and blind;
Cease, then, to circumscribe the grace of God,
To poise the balance, and to lift the rod;
Remember how the Scripture hath declared,
That such as spare not, Heav'n will leave unspared.

Peel.

THEY SHOULD WALK IN WISDOM TOWARD EACH OTHER.

Matt. xviii. 6, 7. Rom. xiv. 15, 19; xv. 1, 2. 1 Cor. iii. 2; viii. 9—13; ix. 19; x. 32, 33. 1 Thess. v. 14. Heb. xii. 13.

When weaker Christians we despise,
We do the Gospel mighty wrong;
For God, the gracious and the wise,
Receives the feeble and the strong.

Let pride and wrath be banished hence;
Meekness and love our souls pursue:
Nor shall our practice give offence
To saints, the Gentile, or the Jew.

Watts.

THEY SHOULD PREFER THE INTEREST OF OTHERS TO THEIR OWN.

Rom. xii. 10; xv. 2, 3. 1 Cor. x. 24, 33. Phil. ii. 3, 4.

The Christian seeks his brother's good,
Sometimes beyond his own;
Or if self-interest will intrude,
It does not reign alone.

Hart.

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THEY SHOULD ADMONISH EACH OTHER.

Lev. xix. 17. Prov. xxv. 9—12; xxvii. 5, 6; xxviii. 23. Matt. xviii. 15. Luke xvii. 3. Rom. xv. 14. Gal. vi. 1. 1 Thess. v. 12. 2 Thess. iii. 15. 1 Tim. v. 1, 20. Titus iii. 10. Heb. iii. 13; x. 24, 25.

THEY SHOULD BEAR REBUKE AND ADMONITION FROM EACH OTHER.

2 Sam. xii. 7—13. Psalm cxli. 5. Prov. ix. 8, 9; x. 17; xii. 1, 15. xiii. 1, 18; xv. 5, 10, 12, 31, 32; xviii. 10; xxv. 12; xxix. 1. Eccles. vii. 5. Gal. iv. 16. Heb. xiii. 17.

Take heed, ye Christians, how ye hear;
  Pay every truth respect:
The word of exhortation bear,
  Nor treat with cold neglect.

Despise not those that would you warn:
  Remember this is true,—
He that his duty will not learn,
  His duty will not do.

Hart.

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THEY SHOULD RELIEVE THE WANTS OF OTHERS, AND PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF GOD BY ALL THE MEANS WITH WHICH HE HAS BLESSED THEM.

Exod. xxii. 25. Lev. xxv. 35. Job xxix. 11—13; xxxi. 16—20. Prov. iii. 28; xxi. 13. Ezek. xvi. 49. Matt. vi. 1—3. Mark xii. 41—44. Luke iii. 11; xviii. 22. Acts x. 2—4; xi. 29; xx. 35. Rom. xii. 8, 13; xv. 26. 1 Cor. xvi. 2. Gal. vi. 6. Ephes. iv. 28. 1 Tim. v. 16; vi. 18. James ii. 15, 16. 1 Peter iv. 10, 11. 1 John iii. 17.

Haste, haste with your gifts, for the night cometh fast,
When no man can labour, when hope will be past.
The more bounteously, freely, and gladly you give,
The more richly within you the Spirit shall live.
Withhold not from Jesus, attest your new birth,
Send his messengers forth to the ends of the earth;
Send many, nor cease till the ranks be complete;
Give strength to their arms, and give wings to their feet:
Awaken! come forth with one mighty accord,
Bring your silver and gold to the help of the Lord!

Anon.

PROMISES.

Deut. xv. 10. Psalm xxxvii. 25, 26; xli. 1—3; cxii. 9. Prov. xi. 24; xiv. 21; xix. 17; xxii. 9; xxviii. 8, 27. Eccles. xi. 1, 2. Isaiah xxxii. 8; lviii. 10, 11. Matt. x. 42; xxv. 34—40.

O bless'd the man whose aims and ardours rise
On faith's strong pinions soaring to the skies;
Yet, while conversing here with want and woe,
Acts the good minister of Heaven below.

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The poor relieved, the widow's wrongs redressed,
The darkened mind illumed with heavenly day,
The sympathies that soothe the burdened breast,
And wipe affliction's tear away,
These shall like fragrant incense rise,
Heaven's sweet, accepted sacrifice.
These on the friendly, generous mind
Will draw God's choicest blessings down;
He'll mercy show for mercy shown,
And still be kindest to the kind.

Henry Moore.

THE DUTY OF COMMUNICATING INSTRUCTION IN SPIRITUAL THINGS TO OTHERS.

Psalm li. 13. Prov. xi. 25. Eccles. xi. 1, 6. Matt. x. 8. John i. 44, 45; iv. 29. James v. 19, 20.

The nations perish; day by day
Thousands on thousands pass away:
O Christians, to their rescue fly;
Preach to them Jesus ere they die.

Wealth, talents, labour, freely give!
Spend, and be spent, that they may live:
What hath your Saviour done for you?
And what for him should you not do?

J. Montgomery

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PROMISES TO THOSE WHO COMMUNICATE SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTION TO OTHERS.

Prov. xi. 25, 30. Eccles. xi. 1, 6. Isaiah lv. 10—12. Dan. xii. 3. 1 Cor. ix. 10; xv. 58. Gal. vi. 9. James v. 20.

The husbandman, with weeping, bears
His precious seed abroad;
And while he faintly "sows in tears,"
Commits it to the sod.

Patient, he waits with eager eyes,
The blissful harvest day;
Though every cloud that sails the skies,
Drives all his hopes away.

So let us trust from day to day,
And wait the happy hour
When we shall weep, and watch, and pray,
And sigh, and fear no more.

True, 'tis a wintry seed-time now,
Which we in tears employ;
But soon heaven's summer sun shall glow,
And we shall reap in joy.

R. S. M

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GENERAL DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS TO ALL MEN.

Exod. xxii. 21, 22. Micah vi. 8. Zech. viii. 16. Matt. vii. 12; xxii. 39. 1 Cor. x. 32, 33. 2 Cor. viii. 21. Phil. ii. 14, 15; iv. 5. Col. iv. 5, 6. 1 Thess. iv. 12; v. 15. 1 Tim. vi. 11. 2 Tim. ii. 22. Titus ii. 11, 12; iii. 1, 2. 1 Peter ii. 12, 15—17; iii. 15, 16.

Humble and grateful, cheerful and serene,
As well at home, as when with friends abroad;
Content with little, or well using much,
Kind to the world, and loving in the church;
In things domestic, prudent, diligent;
In business, whether lab'ring with his hands,
Or guiding many by his active mind;
Sound in his understanding, warm his heart.

Swain.

CIRCUMSPECTION.

Rom. xii. 17. 2 Cor. viii. 21. Ephes. v. 15. Phil. ii. 15; iv. 8. Col. iv. 5. 1 Thess. iv. 12. 1 Peter ii. 12; iii. 16.

Watched by the world's malignant eye,
Who load us with reproach and shame,
As servants of the Lord most high,
As zealous for his glorious name,
We ought in all his paths to move
With holy fear and humble love.

That wisdom, Lord, on us bestow,
From every evil to depart,
To stop the mouth of every foe,
While upright both in life and heart,
The proofs of godly fear we give,
And show them how the Christians live.

C. Wesley.

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THE DUTY OF WATCHING AGAINST SIN AND ITS TEMPTATIONS.

Psalm iv. 4. Matt. xxiv. 42; xxv. 13; xxvi. 41. Mark xiii. 37. Luke xii. 35—38; xxi. 36. 1 Cor. x. 12; xvi. 13. Ephes. iv. 27; v. 15; vi. 18. Col. iv. 2. 1 Thess. v. 6. 2 Tim. iv. 5. 1 Peter v. 8, 9. Rev. iii. 2; xvi. 15.

Thine must be a watchful sleep,
  Wearier than another's waking;
Such a charge as thou dost keep,
  Brooks no moment of forsaking;
Sleep as on the battle-field,
Girded, grasping sword and shield,
Foes thou canst not name nor number,
Start upon thy broken slumber.

Charlotte Elizabeth.

THE DUTY OF HOSPITALITY.

Gen. xviii. 3—8; xix. 2; xxiv. 31. Exod. ii. 20. Judges xix. 15—21. Job xxxi. 32. Acts xvi. 15, 33, 34; xxviii. 2. Rom. xii. 13. 1 Tim. iii. 2. Titus i. 8. Heb. xiii. 2. 1 Peter iv. 9.

THE DUTY OF CONFESSING AND MOURNING FOR SIN.

Lev. xvi. 21. Num. v. 6, 7. Jer. iii. 13. James iv. 9. 1 John i. 8, 9.

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EXAMPLES OF CONFESSION OF SIN.

Judges x. 15. 2 Sam. xii. 13; xxiv. 10. Ezra ix. 5—15. Neh. i. 6, 7. Job vii. 20; xl. 4; xlii. 6. Psalm xxxviii. 18; xli. 4; li. 3—5; cvi. 6; cxix. 176. Isaiah lix. 12; lxiv. 6. Jer. xiv. 7, 20. Lam. v. 16. Dan. ix. 4—17. Luke xv. 18, 19. Acts xix. 18.

Thy judgments, Lord, are just; thou lov'st to wear
  The face of pity and of love divine;
But mine is guilt thou must not, canst not spare,
  While heaven is true, and equity is thine;

Yes, O my God! such crimes are mine, so dread,
  Leave but the choice of punishment to thee;
Thy interest calls for judgment on my head,
  And ev'n thy mercy dares not plead for me!

Thy will be done, since 'tis thy glory's due,
  Bid from mine eyes the endless torrents flow;
Smite,—it is time, though endless death ensue,
  I bless the avenging hand that lays me low.
But on what spot shall fall thine anger's flood,
That has not first been drenched in Christ's atoning
    blood?

From the French of M. des Barreaux, translated by
H. K. White.

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PROMISES TO THOSE WHO CONFESS THEIR SINS.

Lev. xxvi. 40—42. Job xxxiii. 27, 28. Psalm xxxii. 5. Prov. xxviii. 13. Matt. v. 4. Luke xv. 21—24. 1 John i. 9.

When I confessed my troubled thoughts,
My secret sins revealed,
Thy pard'ning grace forgave my faults,
Thy grace my pardon sealed:

This shall invite thy saints to pray;
When like a raging flood,
Temptations rise, our strength and stay
Is a forgiving God.

Watts.

THE DUTY OF BEING ZEALOUS FOR THE CAUSE OF GOD.

Num. xxv. 11. 1 Kings xviii. 21—40. 2 Kings x. 16. Psalm lxix. 9; cxix. 139. John ii. 17. 2 Cor. vii. 11. Gal. iv. 18. Titus ii. 14. Jude 3. Rev. iii. 19.

I want an even, strong desire,
I want a calmly fervent zeal,
To save poor souls out of the fire,
To snatch them from the verge of hell,
And turn them to a pardoning God,
And quench the brands in Jesus' blood.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine!
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like thine;
And lead them to thy open side,
The sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

C. Wesley.

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THE HAND OF GOD SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN ALL THE EVENTS OF LIFE.

Gen. xxiv. 26, 27; xxxv. 3. Exod. iv. 31. 1 Sam. xxv. 32, 39. 2 Chron. xx. 12. Psalm lxxv. 6, 7; cxiii. 7; cxxvii. 1; cxlvii. 6. Prov. iii. 5, 6; xvi. 9; xx. 24; Jer. x. 23. Matt. x. 29. 1 Cor. iv. 7. James i. 17.

If thou swim
In wealth, see him in all; see all in him;
Sink'st thou in want, and is thy small cruse spent?
See him in want, enjoy him in content;
Conceiv'st him lodged in cross, or lost in pain?
In prayer and patience find him out again:
Make heaven thy mistress, let no change remove
Thy loyal heart.

Quarles.

AGAINST SELF-DEPENDENCE.

Psalm xxxiii. 16; xliv. 6. Prov. iii. 5. Eccles. ix. 11. Jer. x. 23. Matt. v. 36; vi. 27. 1 Cor. x. 12.

The swift not always in the race
Shall seize the crowning prize;
Not always wealth and honour grace
The labour of the wise.

Fond mortals but themselves beguile,
When on themselves they rest:
Blind is their wisdom, weak their toil,
By thee, O Lord, unblessed.

Anon.

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AGAINST SELF-WILL.

Psalm xl. 8. Matt. xxvi. 39—42. Luke xi. 2. Acts xxi. 14. Titus i. 7. James iv. 15.

O Thou! who hast at thy command
The hearts of all men in thine hand!
Our wayward erring hearts incline
To have no other will but thine.

Our wishes, our desires control,
Mould every purpose of the soul;
O'er all may we victorious be,
That stands between ourselves and Thee.

Mrs. J. Cotterill.

AGAINST SELF-CONCEIT.

Prov. iii. 7; xxvi. 12. Isaiah v. 21. Luke xviii. 11. Rom. xi. 25; xii. 16. Rev. iii. 17.

AGAINST AMBITION.

Psalm cxxxi. 1. Jer. xlv. 5. Rom. xi. 20; xii. 16. 1 Tim. vi. 17.

O cursed hunger of ambitious mindes,
And impotent desire of men to raigne!
Who neither dread of God, that devils bindes,
Nor laws of men, that common weals containe,
Nor bonds of nature, that wild beasts restraine,
Can keep from outrage, and from doing wrong,
Where they may hope a kingdom to obtaine.
No faith so firm, no trust can be so strong,
No love so lasting then, that may enduren long.

Spenser.

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AGAINST PRIDE.

2 Chron. xxxii. 25. Esther v. 9—14. Psalm x. 4; ci. 5; cxxxviii. 6. Prov. vi. 16, 17; viii. 13; xiii. 10; xvi. 18; xvii. 19; xxi. 4; xxix. 23. Jer. xiii. 17. Ezek. xvi. 49. Dan. iv. 37. Hosea v. 5; vii. 10. Obad. 3, 4. Mark vii. 22. Luke i. 51; xviii. 14. 1 Cor. iv. 7. 1 John ii. 16.

Pride, self-adoring pride, was primal cause
Of all sin past, all pain, all woe to come.
Unconquerable pride! first, eldest sin,
Great fountain-head of evil! highest source
Whence flowed rebellion 'gainst the Omnipotent,
Whence hate of man to man, and all else ill.

Pollok.

AGAINST HYPOCRISY.

Job viii. 13; xv. 34; xx. 5; xxvii. 8; xxxvi. 13. Isaiah xxix. 13, 14; xxxiii. 14; lviii. 2. Jer. iii. 10. Exek. xxxiii. 31. Matt. vii. 21; xxiii. 13, 23, 29, 30; xxiv. 51. Luke xii. 1. James iii. 17. 1 Peter ii. 1. Rev. iii. 1.

Nothing but truth before his face
With honour can appear;
The painted hypocrites are known
Through the disguise they wear.

Their lifted eyes salute the skies,
Their bending knees the ground;
But God abhors the sacrifice
Where not the heart is found.

Watts.

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AGAINST IDLENESS AND SLOTHFULNESS.

Prov. vi. 6; x. 4; xii. 24, 27; xiii. 4; xviii. 9; xix, 15, 24; xx. 4. Eccles. x. 18. Ezek. xvi. 49. Rom. xii. 11. 1 Thess. iv. 11. 2 Thess. iii. 10. 1 Tim. v. 13.

Fly idleness; which yet thou canst not fly
By dressing, mistressing, and compliment.
If those take up thy day, the sun will cry
Against thee; for his light was only lent.
God gave thy soul brave wings; put not those feathers
Into a bed, to sleep out all ill weathers.

Herbert.

AGAINST INGRATITUDE.

Gen. xl. 23. Judges viii. 34, 35; ix. 16—19. 1 Sam. xviii. 6—9. Psalm cvi. 7. Prov. xvii. 13. 2 Tim. iii. 2.

Blow, blow, thou wintry wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friends remembered not.

Shakspeare.

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AGAINST INTERMEDDLING WITH THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.

Prov. xx. 3; xxvi. 17. John xxi. 21, 22. 1 Thess. iv. 11. 2 Thess. iii. 11, 12. 1 Tim. v. 13. 1 Peter iv. 15.

AGAINST THE LOVE OF FAME.

Psalm xlix. 11. John xii. 43. 1 Thess. ii. 6.

Fame is the shade of immortality,
And in itself a shadow. Soon as caught,
Condemned; it shrinks to nothing in the grasp.

Young.

AGAINST THE LOVE OF PLEASURE.

Prov. xxi. 17. Eccles. ii. 1. Amos vi. 1, 4, 5. Luke viii. 14. Phil. iii. 19. 1 Tim. v. 6. 2 Tim. iii. 4. Heb. xi. 25. James v. 5.

There's no such thing as pleasure here,
'Tis all a perfect cheat,
Which does but shine and disappear,
Whose charm is but deceit;
The empty bribe of yielding souls,
Which first betrays, and then controls.

'Tis true, it looked at distance fair;
But if we do approach,
The fruit of Sodom will impair
And perish at a touch:
In being than in fancy less,
And we expect more than possess.

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What art thou then, thou winged air,
More weak and swift than fame?
Whose next successor is despair,
And its attendant shame.
Th' experienced prince then reason had,
Who said of pleasure, "It is mad."

Mrs. R. Phillips, 1633.

AGAINST THE LOVE OF HUMAN PRAISE.

Matt. vi. 1—4. John v. 44; xii. 43. Rom. ii. 29. 1 Thess. ii. 6.

Love
Of fame, destructive always too, if less
Than praise of God it sought, content with less;
Ev'n then not current, if it sought his praise
From other motive than resistless love.

Pollok.

AGAINST FLATTERY.

Job xvii. 5; xxxii. 21, 22. Psalm xii. 3. Prov. xx. 19; xxiv. 24; xxvi. 28; xxviii. 23; xxix. 5. 1 Thess. ii. 5.

Flattery—the food of weak and selfish minds,
Disdain, nor listen to her syren song,
Whispering false praises, known and well contemned
By truth and innocence.

Anon.

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AGAINST OPPRESSION AND INJUSTICE. PROMISES TO THE OPPRESSED.

Exod. xxii. 21, 26, 27. Psalm xii. 5; xxxv. 13; lxxii. 4; cxlvi. 7. Prov. xxii. 16, 22, 23. Eccles. v. 8. Jer. xxii. 17. Ezek. xxii. 27. Micah ii. 2. Zech. vii. 10. Mal. iii. 5.

AGAINST SCOFFING AND MOCKING.

2 Kings ii. 23. 2 Chron. xxxvi. 16. Psalm i. 1. Prov. i. 22; iii. 34; xiii. 1; xvii. 5; xix. 29; xxiv. 9. Isaiah xxviii. 14, 22; xxix. 20. Jer. xv. 17. 2 Peter iii. 3.

Blest is the man who shuns the place
  Where sinners love to meet;
Who fears to tread their wicked ways,
  And hates the scoffer's seat.

Watts.

MODERATION AND TEMPERANCE IN ALL THINGS.

Prov. xxiii. 2. Acts xxiv. 25. 1 Cor. vii. 29—31; ix. 25. Gal. v. 23. Phil. iv. 5. 1 Thess. v. 8. 1 Tim. iii. 2; v. 23. 2 Tim. i. 7. Titus i. 8; ii. 2, 4, 6, 12. 1 Peter i. 13; iv. 7; v. 8. 2 Peter i. 6.

Are they of wealth and earthly good possessed?
They take heaven's bounty with a cheerful zest.
Their quarrel with the world you might not note
From texture, cut, or colour of their coat;
For studied plainness, whether dress or speech,
Defeats the very end it aims to reach:

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And yet, on all they have there stands impressed
One truth conspicuous—"This is not our rest."
From that divine remembrance ever springs
A moderated care for other things;
Pilgrims and strangers in a desert spot,
They hold them all as though they held them not.

Jane Taylor.

JOY.

Psalm xxxiii. 21; lxviii. 3; lxxxix. 15, 16; cxviii. 15. Cant. i. 4. Isaiah xli. 16; lxi. 10. Hab. iii. 18. John xv. 11; xvi. 22. Rom. v. 11; xiv. 17. Gal. v. 22. Phil. iii. 1; iv. 4. 1 Peter i. 8.

Joy is a fruit that will not grow
In nature's barren soil,
All we can boast till Christ we know,
Is vanity and toil.

But where the Lord has planted grace,
And made his glories known,
There fruits of heavenly joy and peace
Are found, and there alone.

Newton.

Beware
All joys, but joys that never can expire
Who builds on less than an immortal base,
Fond as he seems, condemns his joys to death.

Young.

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CHEERFULNESS.

Prov. xv. 13, 15; xvii. 22. John xvi. 33. Acts xxvii. 22. Rom. xii. 8.

True piety is cheerful as the day,
Will weep indeed, and heave a pitying groan,
For others' woes, but smiles upon her own.

Cowper.

HUMILITY.

Micah vi. 8. Luke xiv. 7—11. Rom. xii. 3. Phil. ii. 3. Col. iii. 12. 1 Peter v. 5.

Humility! the sweetest, loveliest flower
That bloomed in Paradise, and the first that died,
Has rarely blossomed since on mortal soil:
It is so frail, so delicate a thing,
'Tis gone if it but look upon itself;
And she who ventures to esteem it hers,
Proves by that single thought she has it not.

C. Fry.

PROMISES TO THE HUMBLE.

Job xxii. 29. Psalm ix. 12; x. 17; cxxxviii. 6. Prov. iii. 34; xi. 2; xv. 33; xvi. 19; xviii. 12; xxii. 4; xxix. 23. Isaiah lvii. 15; lxvi. 2. Matt. xviii. 4; xxiii. 12. Luke xviii. 14. James iv. 6.

Th' Almighty from his throne, on earth surveys
Nought greater than an honest, humble heart;
An humble heart his residence, pronounced
His second seat; and rival to the skies.

Young.

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MEEKNESS.

Matt. xi. 29. 2 Cor. x. 1. Gal. v. 23. Ephes. iv. 2. Col. iii. 12. 1 Tim. vi. 11. 2 Tim. ii. 25. Titus iii. 2. Jas. i. 21; iii. 13. 1 Peter iii. 3, 4, 15.

Happy the meek, whose gentle breast,
Clear as the summer's evening ray,
Calm as the regions of the blest,
Enjoys on earth celestial day.

His heart no broken friendships sting,
No jars his peaceful tent invade;
He rests beneath th' Almighty wing,
Hostile to none—of none afraid.

Spirit of grace, all meek and mild,
Inspire our breasts, our souls possess;
Repel each passion rude and wild,
And bless us, as we aim to bless!

Scott.

PROMISES TO THE MEEK.

Psalm xxii. 26; xxv. 9; xxxvii. 11; cxlvii. 6; cxlix. 4. Isaiah xi. 4; xxix. 19. Zeph. ii. 3. Matt. v. 5.

Meeken my soul, thou heavenly Lamb,
That I in the new earth may claim,
My hundred-fold reward;
My rich inheritance possess,
Co-heir with the great Prince of peace,
Co-partner with my Lord.

C. Wesley.

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PATIENCE.

Job ii. 10. Psalm xxxvii. 7; xl. 1. Eccles. vii. 8. Isa. liii. 7. Micah vii. 9. Luke xxi. 19. Rom. ii. 7; viii. 25; xii. 12; xv. 4. 2 Cor. vi. 4. Col. i. 11. 1 Thess. i. 3; v. 14. 2 Thess. i. 4. 1 Tim. vi. 11. 2 Tim. ii. 24. Titus ii. 2. Heb. xii. 1. 2 Peter i. 6. Rev. ii. 2.

Lord, who hast suffered all for me,
  My peace and pardon to procure,
The lighter cross I bear for Thee,
  Help me with patience to endure.

The storm o floud repining hush,
  I would in humble silence mourn;
Why should th' unburnt, though burning bush,
  Be angry as the crackling thorn?

Ah! were I buffeted all day,
  Mocked, crowned with thorns, and spit upon;
I yet should have no right to say,
  My great distress is mine alone.

Let me not angrily declare
  No pain was ever sharp like mine,
Nor murmur at the cross I bear,
  But rather weep, remembering thine.

Cowper.

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PROMISES TO THE PATIENT.

Lam. iii. 26—32. Rom. v. 3, 4. Heb. vi. 12; x. 36, 37.
James i. 3, 4; v. 7, 8, 11. 1 Peter ii. 20.

Who suffer with our Master here,
We shall before his face appear,
And by his side sit down:
To patient faith the prize is sure,
And all that to the end endure
The cross, shall wear the crown.

C. Wesley.

GENTLENESS.

2 Cor. x. 1. Gal. v. 22. 1 Thess. ii. 7. 2 Tim. ii. 24.
Titus iii. 2. James iii. 17.

Since trifles make the sum of human things,
And half our misery from our foibles springs,
Since life's best joys consist in peace and ease,
And few can save or serve, but all can please,
Oh! let the ungentle spirit learn from hence
A small unkindness is a great offence.
Heaven decrees
To all, the gift of ministering to ease,
The gentle offices of patient love,
Beyond all flattery, and all price above.

H. More.

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PRUDENCE.

Prov. xii. 16, 23; xiii. 16; xiv. 8, 15, 18; xxii. 3.
Matt. x. 16. Ephes. v. 15. Col. iv. 5.

That thou mayest injure no man, dove-like be;
And serpent-like, that none may injure thee.

Cowper.

MERCY.

Prov. iii. 3. Micah vi. 8. Zech. vii. 9. Luke vi. 36; x. 37.
Rom. xii. 8. Col. iii. 12. James ii. 13; iii. 17.

The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mighty; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute of God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice.

Shakspeare.

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PROMISES TO THE MERCIFUL.

Psalm xviii. 25; xxxvii. 26. Prov. iii. 3, 4; xxi. 21. Matt. v. 7.

Blest is the man whose softening heart
Feels all another's pain;
To whom the supplicating eye
Was never raised in vain.

To gentle offices of love
His feet are never slow;
He views, through mercy's melting eye,
A brother in a foe.

To him protection shall be shown,
And mercy from above
Descend on those who thus fulfil
The perfect law of love.

Mrs. Barbauld.

SELF-DENIAL.

Matt. x. 38; xvi. 24. Luke ix. 23. John xii. 25. Rom. xv. 1—3.

The way of self-denial,
The world's contemptuous frown,
The cross's fearful trial,
Are preludes to the crown.

If thou thyself denying,
Thy cross for Christ will wear;
His grace, its aid supplying,
Thy crown will yet prepare.

Barton.

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THE FEAR OF MAN SHOULD NOT DETER FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY.

Psalm lvi. 4; cxviii. 6. Prov. xxix. 25. Isaiah viii. 12, 13; xli. 10; li. 7. Jer. i. 8. Matt. x. 28. Acts v. 28, 29. Heb. xiii. 6. 1 Peter iii. 14.

Shall I for fear of feeble man,
The Spirit's course in me restrain,
Or, undismayed in deed and word,
Be a true witness for my Lord?

Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the word of God most high?
How then before thee shall I dare
To stand, or how thine anger bear?

Shall I, to soothe the unholy throng,
Soften thy truths, and smooth my tongue?
To gain earth's gilded toys, or flee
The cross, endured, my Lord, by thee?

What then is he whose scorn I dread?
Whose wrath or hate makes me afraid?
A man! an heir of death! a slave
To sin! a bubble on the wave.

Moravian.

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PERSECUTION IS THE LOT OF ALL WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

Psalm xliv. 22; lxix. 7. Matt. x. 17, 18, 22; xxiv. 9. John xvi. 33. Acts ix. 16; xiv. 19, 22; xvi. 23. 1 Cor. iv. 9. 2 Cor. xi. 24—33. Phil. i. 29. 1 Thess. iii. 3. 2 Tim. iii. 12. Rev. i. 9.

Thy power and saving truth to show,
A warfare at thy charge I go,
  Strong in the Lord, and thy great might;
Gladly take up the hallowed cross;
And suffering all things for thy cause,
  Beneath that bloody banner fight.

C. Wesley.

DUTIES UNDER PERSECUTION.

Psalm cxix. 157, 161. Jer. xxvi. 11—15. Lam. iii. 55. Matt. x. 19, 22, 23. Acts iv. 29, 30; v. 40, 41; xvi. 25. Rom. xii. 14. 1 Cor. iv. 12, 13. 2 Cor. vi. 4; xii. 10; 2 Thess. i. 4. Heb. x. 34; xi. 25, 26; xii. 3. 1 Peter ii. 20—23. Rev. ii. 3, 10.

Lord, resigning fame and treasure,
  Mine be trouble, scorn, and pain;
In thy service pain is pleasure,
  With thy favour loss is gain.

I have called thee Abba, Father,
  I have set my heart on thee;
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,
  All must work for good to me.

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Men may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to thy breast;
Life with troubles hard may press me,
Heaven will bring the sweeter rest.

G.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED.

Matt. v. 10—12; xix. 29. Rom. viii. 17, 35, 37. 2 Tim. ii. 12. Heb. x. 34, 35. 1 Peter iii. 14; iv. 12—14.

Blest are the sufferers who partake
Of pain and shame for Jesus' sake;
Their souls shall triumph in the Lord,
Glory and joy are their reward.

Anon.

THE DUTY OF CONFESSING CHRIST.

Matt. x. 32. Mark viii. 38. Rom. x. 9, 10. 2 Tim. i. 12; ii. 12. 1 John ii. 23; iv. 15. Rev. ii. 13.

Ashamed of Jesus! can it be?
A mortal man ashamed of thee!
Ashamed of thee whom angels praise,
Whose glory shines through endless days!

Ashamed of Jesus! that dear friend,
On whom my hopes of heaven depend;
No! when I blush, be this my shame,
That I no more revere his name.

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Ashamed of Jesus! yes I may,
When I've no guilt to wash away,
No tears to wipe, no joys to crave,
No fears to quell, no soul to save.

Till then—nor is my boasting vain,
Till then, I'll boast a Saviour slain;
And oh! may this my portion be,
That Saviour not ashamed of me.

Grigg.

THE DUTY OF SUFFERING MARTYRDOM, IF REQUIRED, IN THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

Matt. x. 28, 39. Luke xiv. 26. Acts vii. 54—60; xii. 2; xx. 24; xxi. 13. 2 Tim. iv. 6—8. Heb. xi. 35—37. 1 Peter iv. 19. Rev. xii. 11.

Would not my heart pour forth its blood,
In honour of thy name,
And challenge the cold hand of death
To damp the immortal flame?

Doddridge.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO ENDURE MARTYRDOM FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

Matt. x. 39. John xii. 25. Rom. viii. 17, 35, 37. 2 Tim. ii. 12. 1 Peter iv. 12, 13. Rev. ii. 10; vi. 11; xx. 4.

When Persecution's torrent blaze
Wraps the unshrinking martyr's head;
When fade all earthly flowers and bays,
When summer friends are gone and fled,
Is he alone in that dark hour,
Who owns the Lord of love and power?

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Or waves there not around his brow
  A wand no human arm may wield;
Fraught with a spell no angels know,
  His steps to guide, his soul to shield?
Thou, Saviour, art his charmed bower,
His magic ring, his rock, his tower.

Keble.

AFFLICTION.

AFFLICTIONS ARE THE APPOINTMENT OF GOD, AND ARE NO PROOF OF GUILT.

Job v. 6, 7. Luke xiii. 1—4. John ix. 1—3.

Not from the dust affliction grows,
  Nor troubles rise by chance;
Yet we are born to cares and woes,
  A sad inheritance!

Watts.

AFFLICTION IS THE PECULIAR LOT OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.

Deut. viii. 5. Psalm lxxxix. 30—34. Prov. iii. 11, 12. John xvi. 33. 1 Thess. iii. 3. Heb. xii. 5—10. Rev. iii. 19.

The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown;
No traveller ever reached that blest abode,
Who found not thorns and briers in his road.

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For He, who knew what human hearts would prove,
How slow to learn the dictates of his love,
That, hard by nature, and of stubborn will,
A life of ease would make them harder still,
In pity to the souls his grace designed
To rescue from the ruins of mankind,
Called for a cloud to darken all their years,
And said, "Go, spend them in the vale of tears."
O balmy gales of soul-reviving air!
O salutary streams that murmur there!
These flowing from the fount of grace above,
Those breathed from lips of everlasting love.
The flinty soil indeed their feet annoys;
Chill blasts of trouble nip their springing joys;
An envious world will interpose its frown,
To mar delights superior to its own;
And many a pang, experienced still within,
Reminds them of their hated inmate, sin!
But ills of every shape and every name,
Transformed to blessings, miss their cruel aim;
And every moment's calm that soothes the breast,
Is given in earnest of eternal rest.

Cowper.

THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIFIED AFFLICTION.

Job v. 17; xxxvi. 8, 9. Psalm xciv. 12, 13; cxix. 67, 71, 75. Eccles. vii. 3. Isaiah i. 25; xxvii. 9; xlviii. 10. Jer. xxx. 11. Dan. xi. 35; xii. 10. Hosea ii. 6, 7. Zech. xiii. 9. Rom. v. 3—5; viii. 18. 1 Cor. xi. 32. 2 Cor. iv. 17, 18. Heb. xii. 10, 11. James i. 3, 12. 1 Peter i. 6, 7.

There is a secret in the ways of God
With his own children, which none others know,

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That sweetens all he does; and if such peace,
While under his afflicting hand we find,
What will it be to see him as he is?
Come then, affliction, if my Father bids,
And be my frowning friend; a friend that frowns
Is better than a smiling enemy.
We welcome clouds which bring the former rain,
Though they the present prospect blacken round,
And shade the beauties of the opening year,
That by their stores enriched the earth may yield
A fruitful summer, and a plenteous crop.

Swain.

DUTIES UNDER AFFLICTION.

Lev. x. 3; xxvi. 40, 41. 1 Sam. iii. 18; xxx. 6. 2 Sam. xxii. 6, 7. 2 Kings xix. 14; xx. 1—3. Job i. 21; ii. 10; xxxiv. 23, 31, 32. Psalm xxxiv. 4, 6, 17; xxxix. 9; xli. 3; xlii. 3—5; l. 15; lv. 22; lxxvii. 2; lxxviii. 34; lxxxvi. 7; cxviii. 5. Prov. xxiv. 10. Eccles. vii. 14. Isaiah viii. 17. Jer. xxxi. 18, 19. Lam. iii. 29, 30, 39, 40. Micah vi. 9; vii. 9. Hab. iii. 17, 18. Luke xxii. 42. Rom. xii. 12. 2 Cor. vi. 10. 2 Tim. ii. 3; iv. 5. Heb. xii. 5, 9, 12. James v. 13.

This then must be the med'cine for my woes,
To yield to what my Saviour shall dispose:
To glory in my baseness, to rejoice
In mine afflictions, to obey his voice,
As well when threatenings my defects reprove,
As when I cherished am with words of love;
To say to him, in every time and place,
Withdraw thy comforts, so thou leave thy grace.

Sir John Beaumont.

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THE LORD SUPPORTS HIS PEOPLE UNDER AFFLICTION.

Exod. iii. 7, 8. Psalm ix. 9; xxvii. 12, 13; xxxiv. 19; xxxvii. 24; cxxxvi. 23; cxxxviii. 7. Isaiah xxv. 4; xxvii. 8. Jer. xvi. 19. 1 Cor. x. 13. 2 Cor. i. 5; iv. 8, 9.

The saint may be compelled to meet
  Misfortune's saddest blow;
His bosom is alive to feel
  The keenest pang of woe.

But, ever as the wound is given,
  There is a hand unseen,
Hasting to wipe away the scar,
  And hide where it has been.

When clouds of sorrow gather round,
  His bosom owns no fear;
He knows, where'er his portion be,
  His God will still be there.

C. Fry.

THE LORD GIVES DELIVERANCE OUT OF AFFLICTION.

Job xi. 16. Psalm xxx. 5; lxvi. 10—12; lxviii. 13; lxxi. 20; cvii. 19. Prov. xi. 8; xxiv. 16. Jer. xxix. 11; xxxi. 12. Lam. iii. 31, 32. Hosea vi. 1. 2 Tim. iii. 11. 2 Peter ii. 9.

Give to the winds thy fears,
  Hope, and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
  God shall lift up thy head:

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Through waves, and clouds, and storms,
He gently clears the way;
Wait thou his time, so shall this night
Soon end in joyous day.

Moravian.

DUTIES TOWARDS THE AFFLICTED.

Job ii. 12, 13; vi. 14; xvi. 5; xxx. 25. Psalm xxxv. 13. Prov. xvii. 17. Matt. xxv. 35, 36. Rom. xii. 12. 2 Tim. i. 16. Heb. xiii. 3. James i. 27.

We weep for those that weep below,
And, burthened, for the afflicted sigh;
The various forms of human woe
Excite our softest sympathy,
Fill every heart with mournful care,
And draw out all our souls in prayer.

C. Wesley.

WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST IN HIS HUMILITY.

Matt. xi. 29; xx. 26—28. John xiii. 14, 15. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Phil. ii. 5—8.

Let thy cross my will control;
Conform me to my guide;
In thine image mould my soul,
And crucify my pride;
Give me, Lord, a contrite heart,
A heart that always looks to thee:
Meek Redeemer, now impart
Thine own humility.

Toplady.

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IN HIS DECISION OF CHARACTER.

Mark x. 32, 38. Luke ix. 51; xii. 50. John iv. 31—34.

The Saviour, what a noble flame
Was kindled in his breast,
When hasting to Jerusalem,
He marched before the rest!

Good-will to men, and zeal for God,
His every thought engross;
He longs to be baptized with blood,
He pants to reach the cross.

With all his sufferings full in view,
And woes to us unknown,
Forth to the task his spirit flew,
'Twas love that urged him on.

Cowper.

IN HIS SELF-DENIAL.

Matt. xxvi. 39. John vi. 38. Rom. xv. 2, 3, 5.

Counting gain and glory loss,
May I tread the path he trod,
Die with Jesus on the cross,
Rise with Him to Thee, my God.

Anon.

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IN HIS FORGIVENESS OF INJURIES, AND HIS PATIENCE UNDER SUFFERINGS AND REVILINGS.

Isa. liii. 7. Luke xxiii. 34. Heb. xii. 2, 3. 1 Pet. ii. 21—23.

Reviled, rejected, and betrayed,
No curse he breathed, no plaint he made,
And when in death's deep pang he sighed,
Prayed for his murderers, and died.

Edmeston.

IN HIS GENERAL CHARACTER.

2 Cor. iii. 18. Heb. iii. 1. 1 Peter ii. 21. 1 John ii. 6.

In duties and in sufferings too,
My Lord I fain would trace!
As thou hast done, so would I do,
Depending on thy grace.

Inflamed with zeal, 'twas thy delight
To do thy Father's will;
May the same zeal my soul excite,
Thy precepts to fulfil.

Meekness, humility, and love,
Through all thy conduct shine,
O may my whole deportment prove
A copy, Lord, of thine.

Beddome.

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THE EXAMPLE OF MAN SHOULD BE IMITATED SO FAR AS HE FOLLOWS CHRIST.

Luke x. 37. John viii. 39. 1 Cor. iv. 16; xi. 1. 2 Thess. iii. 9. Heb. vi. 12; xii. 1; xiii. 7. James v. 10.

'Tis Jesus bids us keep in view
  Your active faith and patient hope,
As ye your Lord, we follow you,
  And wait for him to take us up;
Our closest fellowship to improve,
Our fellowship with saints above.

Encompassed with so great a cloud
  Of witnesses, who speak though dead,
We cast aside our every load,
  And follow where our Lord hath led,
With patience run the appointed race,
And die to see his glorious face.

C. Wesley.

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MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

LIFE.

THE SHORTNESS AND UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE.

Gen. xlvii. 9. 1 Chron. xxix. 15. Job iv. 19; vii. 6; ix. 25, 26; xxxiv. 15, 20. Psalm xxxix. 5; xc. 5, 6, 9, 10; cii. 11; ciii. 15; cxliv. 4. Eccles. vi. 12. Isaiah xl. 6—8; lxiv. 6. James i. 10, 11. 1 Peter i. 24.

Like to the falling of a star,
Or as the flights of eagles are,
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew;
Or like a wind that chafes the flood,
Or bubbles which on water stood:
Ev'n such is man, whose borrowed light,
Is straight called in, and paid to-night.
The wind blows out, the bubble dies,
The spring entombed in autumn lies,
The dew dries up, the star is shot,
The flight is past, and man forgot.

H. King, died 1669.

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LIFE IS FULL OF TROUBLE.

Gen. iii. 17—19; xlvii. 9. Job v. 7; xiv. 1, 2.
Eccles. ii. 22, 23.

How dark, though fleeting, are the days of man,
What countless sorrows crowd his narrow span!
For what is life? A groan, a breath, a sigh,
A bitter tear, a drop of misery,
A lamp just dying in sepulchral gloom,
A voice of anguish from the lonely tomb.
Or wept or weeping, all the change we know,
'Tis all our mournful history below.
Pleasure is grief, but smiling to destroy,
And what is sorrow but the ghost of joy?

Anon.

THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE IS DESCRIBED AS A PILGRIMAGE.

Gen. xlvii. 9. Lev. xxv. 23. Deut. xii. 9. 1 Chron. xxix. 15. Psalm xxxix. 12; cxix. 19, 54. Micah ii. 10. Heb. xi. 9, 10, 13—16; xiii. 14. 1 Peter i. 17; ii. 11.

Strangers and pilgrims here below,
This earth we know is not our place,
But hasten through this vale of woe,
And restless to behold thy face;
Swift to our heavenly country move,
Our everlasting home above.

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We've no abiding city here,
  But seek a city out of sight,
Thither our steady course we steer,
  Aspiring to the plains of light;
Jerusalem, the saints' abode,
Whose Founder is the living God.

C. Wesley.

IS DESCRIBED AS A RACE.

1 Cor. ix. 24. Gal. ii. 2; v. 7. Phil. ii. 16; iii. 14. 2 Tim. iv. 7. Heb. xii. 1, 2.

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
  And press with vigour on;
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
  And an immortal crown.

Blest Saviour, introduced by thee,
  Have I my race begun;
And crowned with victory at thy feet,
  I'll lay my honours down.

Doddridge.

IS DESCRIBED AS A WARFARE.

2 Cor. x. 3, 4. Ephes. vi. 12—17. 1 Thess. v. 8. 1 Tim. i. 18; vi. 12. 2 Tim. ii. 3, 4; iv. 7.

A battle-field,
Two banners spread, two dreadful fronts of war,
In shock of opposition fierce engaged.
God, angels, saw whole empires rise in arms,

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Saw kings exalted, heard them tumble down,
And others raised, and heeded not; but here
God, angels, looked,—God, angels, fought, and hell
With all his legions fought: here error fought
With truth, with darkness light, and life with death.
And here, not kingdoms, reputations, worlds,
Were won; the strife was for eternity,
The victory was never-ending bliss;
The badge a chaplet from the tree of life.

Pollok.

His warfare is within. There unfatigued,
His fervent spirit labours. There he fights,
And there obtains fresh triumphs o'er himself,
And never-withering wreaths, compared with which
The laurels that a Cæsar reaps are weeds.

Cowper.

DEATH.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

Gen. ii. 17; iii. 17—19. Rom. v. 12—19; vi. 23.
1 Cor. xv. 21, 22. James i. 15.

Man's first disobedience; and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe.

Milton.

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IS CERTAIN TO ALL.

Gen. v. Josh. xxiii. 14. 1 Kings ii. 2. Job xiv. 10—12; xxiv. 22, 24; xxx. 23. Psalm lxxxix. 48. Eccles. viii. 8; ix. 3, 5, 10; xii. 7. Isaiah li. 12. Zech. i. 5. John ix. 4. Heb. ii. 14, 15; ix. 27.

Like shadows gliding o'er the plain,
  Or clouds that roll successive on,
Man's busy generations pass,
  And while we gaze, their forms are gone.

Vain was the boast of lengthened years,
  The patriarch's full maturity;
'Twas but a larger drop to swell
  The ocean of eternity.

"He lived,—he died:" behold the sum,
  The abstract of the historian's page!
Alike in God's all-seeing eye
  The infant's day, the patriarch's age.

J. Taylor.

SHOULD BE FREQUENTLY THOUGHT ON.

Deut. xxxii. 29. Psalm xxxix. 4; xc. 12; cxix. 84. Amos iv. 12.

We always should remember death is sure;
What grows familiar most, we best endure;
And neither gives increase, nor brings decay;
We must all pass through death's Dead-sea of night,
To reach the haven of eternal light.

Sir R. Howard.

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THERE IS HOPE IN THE CHRISTIAN'S DEATH.

Num. xxiii. 10. Prov. xiv. 32. Isaiah lvii. 1, 2. Acts vii. 59, 60. Rom. xiv. 8. 2 Cor. v. 1, 2, 6, 8. Phil. i. 21, 23. 1 Thess. v. 10. 2 Tim. iv. 6—8. Rev. xiv. 13. (See page 136.)

The heir of heaven,—henceforth I dread not death;
In Christ I live, in Christ I draw the breath
Of the true life. Let sea, and earth, and sky
Wage war against me: on my front I show
Their mighty Master's seal! In vain they try
To end my life, who can but end its woe.
Is that a death-bed, where the Christian lies?
Yes! but not his: 'tis death itself there dies.

Coleridge.

It matters little at what hour o' the day
The righteous fall asleep; death cannot come
To him untimely who is fit to die;
The less of this cold world, the more of heaven;
The briefer life, the earlier immortality.

Milman.

RICHES.

RICHES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD.

Deut. viii. 18. 1 Sam. ii. 7. 1 Chron. xxix. 12. 2 Chron. i. 12. Hosea ii. 8. Hag. ii. 8.

Riches, as seemeth good to thee,
Thou dost, and honours give;
And kings their power and dignity
Out of thy hand receive.

C. Wesley.

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THE VANITY AND UNCERTAINTY OF RICHES.

Job xxxvi. 19. Psalm xlix. 6, 7; lii. 7. Prov. x. 2; xi. 4, 28; xv. 16; xxiii. 5. Eccles. vi. 1, 2; x. 7. Jer. ix. 23. Ezek. vii. 19. Zeph. i. 18. Matt. vi. 19. Luke xii. 16, 21. James v. 1—3. Rev. xviii. 16—18.

Riches are passed away from hand to hand,
As fortune, vice, or folly may command;
As in a dance, the pair that take the lead
Turn downwards, and the lowest pair succeed,
So shifting and so various is the plan
By which Heaven rules the mixed affairs of man:
Vicissitude wheels round the motley crowd,
The rich grows poor, the poor becomes purse-proud.

Cowper.

THE DANGER TO WHICH THEY EXPOSE MEN.

Prov. xxviii. 11; xxx. 8, 9. Eccles. v. 12. Matt. xiii. 22. James ii. 6; v. 2—6.

Extol not riches, then, the toil of fools,
The wise man's cumbrance, if not snare: more apt
To slacken virtue, and abate her edge,
Than prompt her to do aught may merit praise.

A crown,
Golden in show, is but a wreath of thorns,
Brings dangers, troubles, cares, and sleepless nights
To him who wears the royal diadem,
When on his shoulders each man's burdened.

Milton.

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THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO ARE POSSESSED OF RICHES.

Job xxix. 11—13. Luke xii. 21. Rom. xii. 13. 1 Cor. xvi. 2. 1 Tim. vi. 17, 18. 1 John iii. 17.

O happy he to whose contented mind
Riches seem useless but to help mankind;
Who neither squanders what should feed the poor,
Nor suffers avarice to lock his store.
No moths upon his heaps of garments feed,
Nor serves his corn to feed the pampered steed.
No cankering care shall take his peace away;
No thief, nor flames shall on his substance prey.

Translated from the Latin of St. Columba.

TRUE RICHES.

Matt. vi. 19. Luke xii. 33. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Ephes. iii. 8. 1 Tim. vi. 18. Heb. xi. 26. James ii. 5. Rev. ii. 9; iii. 18.

Shall man, to sordid views confined,
His powers unfold,
And waste his energy of mind
In search of gold?
Rise, rise, my soul, and spurn such low desires,
Nor quench in grovelling dust heaven's noblest fires.

Seek thou, my soul, a nobler wealth,
And more secure:
Content and peace, the mind's best health,
And thoughts all pure;
And deeds benevolent, and prayer and praise,
And deep submission to Heaven's righteous ways.

J. Taylor.

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WISDOM.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF WISDOM,—ONE THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD, THE OTHER TRUE WISDOM.

THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD.

Eccles. i. 18. Isaiah v. 21; xxix. 14; xliv. 25. Jer. viii. 9; ix. 23. Matt. xi. 25. 1 Cor. i. 19; ii. 6; iii. 18, 19. 2 Cor. i. 12. James iii. 15.

I thank thy sovereign power and love,
That crowns my doctrine with success;
And makes the babes in knowledge learn
The heights, and breadths, and lengths of grace.

But all this glory lies concealed
From men of prudence and of wit:
The prince of darkness blinds their eyes,
And their own pride resists the light.

Watts.

TRUE WISDOM.

Deut. iv. 5, 6; xxxii. 29. Job xxviii. 28. Psalm cxi. 10. Prov. i. 7; viii. 10; ix. 10. Eccles. vii. 12. Matt. vii. 24. James iii. 17.

She contains
Within herself, the sum of excellence.
If riches are desired, wisdom is wealth!
If prudence, where shall keen invention find
Artificer more cunning? If renown,
In her right hand it comes! If piety,
Are not her labours virtues? If the lore

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Which sage experience teaches, lo! she scans
Antiquity's dark truths; the past she knows,
Anticipates the future;—
She weighs effects with causes, ends with means,
Resolving all into the sovereign will.

H. Moore.

THE SOURCE OF TRUE WISDOM.

1 Kings iv. 29; x. 24. Job xii. 13; xxviii. 20, 23. Psalm xix. 7; cxix. 98. Prov. ii. 6; viii. 14. Eccles. ii. 26. Jer. viii. 9. Dan. ii. 21. Ephes. i. 17. Col. i. 9. 2 Tim. iii. 15. James i. 5.

Where is wisdom found? what happy coast
The glory of this lovely birth can boast?
No mortal her unbounded value knows,
Her value in no mortal climate grows:
Herself accessible to God alone,
To him her birth-place and her ways are known.

Scott.

THE ADVANTAGE OF OBTAINING TRUE WISDOM.

Prov. iii. 13, 14; viii. 11, 34, 35; xvi. 16; xxiv. 3, 14. Eccles. vii. 11, 12, 19.

Happy the man who wisdom can obtain,
And getteth understanding: 'tis a prize
Far better than the silver's merchandize;
In value greater than the latent vein
Of sparkling ore, than the rich ruby's gem
More precious: man's ideal world displays
Nought that can equal her; since length of days
In her right hand shines as a diadem,

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While wealth and honour in her left appears;
Her ways are truly ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are paths of peace.
To him that dares, unmoved by tim'rous fears,
Hold her with firm and stedfast grasp, she'll prove
A tree of life; thrice happy he who can retain her love.

Anon.

KNOWLEDGE.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE,—ONE KNOWLEDGE WHICH CANNOT SAVE, THE OTHER SAVING KNOWLEDGE.

KNOWLEDGE WHICH CANNOT SAVE.

Num. xxiv. 3, 4, 15, 16. Eccles. i. 18. Isaiah xlvii. 10. Matt. xi. 25. 1 Cor. viii. 1, 2; xiii. 1, 2, 8. Heb. vi. 4—6. 2 Peter ii. 20.

Knowledge, and zeal, and gifts, and talk,
Unless combined with faith and love,
And witnessed by a gospel walk,
Will not a true profession prove.

Without the fruit the Lord expects,
Knowledge will make our state the worse,
The barren trees he still rejects,
And soon will blast them with his curse.

Newton.

Your learning, like the lunar beam, affords
Light, but not heat; it leaves you undevout,
Frozen at heart, while speculation shines.

Young.

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SAVING KNOWLEDGE.

2 Chron. i. 10. Job xix. 25. Psalm ix. 10; lxxxix. 15. Prov. ii. 5; ix. 10. Jer. ix. 24; xxxi. 34. John iv. 42; x. 4, 14; xvii. 3. 1 Cor. ii. 2. 2 Cor. iv. 6. Ephes. iii. 19. Phil. iii. 8. 2 Peter i. 3, 6. 1 John v. 19, 20.

He that glorieth, let it be alone
In understanding, Lord, and knowing thee,
Through mercy, judgment, righteousness, made known
His strength, his wisdom, and his wealth to be.

This is the understanding which makes wise,
Wise to salvation; this the knowledge still
Which, far surpassing all the world supplies,
Restrains the passions, sanctifies the will.

Barton.

THE LAW.

THE CEREMONIAL LAW OF THE JEWS WAS ABOLISHED AT THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Acts xv. 24. Rom. x. 4. 2 Cor. iii. 13. Gal. iii. 23, 25; iv. 3; v. 1, 2. Col. ii. 17. Heb. ix. 9, 10; x. 1.

The true Messiah now appears,
  The types are all withdrawn;
So fly the shadows and the stars
  Before the rising dawn.

Aaron must lay his robes away,
  His mitre and his vest,
When God himself comes down to be
  The offering and the priest.

Watts.

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THE NATURE OF THE MORAL LAW.

Deut. xxxiii. 2. Psalm xix. 8; cxix. 142. Matt. v. 21, 22, 27, 28. Rom. vii. 12, 14. 2 Cor. iii. 6, 8, 9. 1 Tim. i. 8. James ii. 10.

From Sinai's top Jehovah gave the law,
Life for obedience, death for every flaw.
When the great Sovereign would his will express,
He gives a perfect rule; what can he less?
And guards it with a sanction as severe
As vengeance can inflict, or sinners fear:
Else his own glorious rights he would disclaim,
And man might safely trifle with his name.
He bids him glow with unremitting love
To all on earth, and to himself above;
Condemns the injurious deed, the slanderous tongue,
The thought that meditates a brother's wrong;
Brings not alone the more conspicuous part,
His conduct, to the test, but tries his heart.

Cowper.

THE USE OF THE MORAL LAW, AS CONSISTENT WITH THE GRACE OF THE GOSPEL.

Jer. xxxi. 33. Ezek. xi. 19; xxxvi. 26, 27. Heb. viii. 10.

That blessed law of thine,
Jesus, to me impart:
The Spirit's law of life divine,
O write it in my heart.

Implant it deep within,
Whence it may ne'er remove,
The law of liberty from sin,
The perfect law of love.

C. Wesley.

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THE USE OF THE MORAL LAW, IN ITS SUBSERVIENCE TO THE GOSPEL.

I. TO CONVINCE OF SIN.

Rom. iii. 20; v. 20; vii. 7. Gal. iii. 24.

Therefore was law given them, to evince
Their natural pravity, by stirring up
Sin against law to fight, that they may see
Law can discover sin, but not remove.

Milton.

II. THE RULE OF LIFE.

Matt. v. 17. John xiv. 15. Rom. vi. 1, 2; viii. 4; xiii. 8—10. 1 Cor. ix. 21. Gal. v. 13, 14; vi. 2. 1 Tim. i. 5. James i. 25; ii. 8, 10.

The law no terror now inspires,
As erst on Sinai's hill;
No thunder peals and lightning fires
With dread my spirits fill.

I now can love its holy voice,
It speaks the note of peace:
It bids my mourning soul rejoice,
And all my sorrows cease.

Henceforth I'll take it for my guide
Through life's perplexing ways,
Till heaven shall ope its portals wide,
And change my sighs to praise.

East.

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EVIDENCES OF A RENEWED MIND.

I. PRAYER.

Zech. xii. 10. Luke xviii. 7. Acts ix. 11.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven by prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways:
While angels in their songs rejoice,
And say, "Behold he prays!"

J. Montgomery.

II. LOVE TO CHRIST.

Cant. i. 7. Matt. x. 37. John xxi. 15—17. 1 Cor. xvi. 22. Ephes. vi. 24.

Do not I love thee, O my Lord?
Behold my heart, and see:
And turn each cursed idol out,
That dares to rival thee.

Is not thy name melodious still
To mine attentive ear?
Doth not each pulse with pleasure bound,
My Saviour's voice to hear?

Hast thou a lamb in all thy flock
I would disdain to feed?
Hast thou a foe, before whose face
I fear thy cause to plead?

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Would not mine ardent spirit vie
With angels round the throne,
To execute thy secret will,
And make thy glory known?

Thou know'st I love thee, dearest Lord;
But oh, I long to soar
Far from the sphere of mortal joys,
And learn to love thee more.

Doddridge.

III. HATRED OF SIN.

Psalm ci. 3; cxix. 104, 128. Prov. viii. 13. Hosea xiv. 8. Rom. vii. 15, 19, 24. 2 Tim. ii. 19. Jude 23.

Holy Lord God! I love thy truth,
Nor dare thy least commandment slight,
Yet pierced by sin, that serpent's tooth,
I mourn the anguish of the bite.

But though the poison lurks within,
Hope bids me still with patience wait,
Till death shall set me free from sin;
Free from the only thing I hate.

Had I a throne above the rest,
Where angels and archangels dwell,
One sin unslain within my breast
Would make that heaven as dark as hell.

Cowper.

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IV. SPIRITUAL-MINDEDNESS.

Rom. vii. 22; viii. 6, 9. 1 Cor. ii. 12—14. 2 Cor. iv. 18; v. 7. Phil. iii. 20. Col. iii. 1, 2.

Art thou risen with Christ? Thy love
Must such resurrection show;
Seeking heavenly things above,
Slighting those of earth below.

Where the heart its hopes has stored,
Thither thought and feeling turn;
Thy allegiance to thy Lord
By this simple test discern.

If thy life be hid with Him,
If thy soul to sin be dead,
Earthly things to thee are dim,
Heavenward surer hopes have fled.

Barton.

V. LOVE TO THE BRETHREN.

John xiii. 35. 1 John ii. 10; iii. 14; iv. 20, 21.

Mutual love the token be,
Lord, that we belong to thee;
Love, thine image, love impart!
Stamp it on our face and heart.

C. Wesley.

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GENERAL TESTS TO TRY THE SINCERITY OF OUR PROFESSION AS CHRISTIANS.

Zech. xii. 10. Matt. v. 44. John xiv. 15, 23; xv. 14. 1 Cor. x. 31; xiii. 1—3. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15, 17. Gal. v. 16, 22—24. Ephes. v. 1. Phil. ii. 14, 15; iii. 12. Heb. xi. 13; xiii. 14. 1 John ii. 5; iii. 3, 9, 14, 17; iv. 13.

Christians, behold a simple test,
  Which in the light of truth, makes known
As God can only manifest,
  Who are, and who are not his own.

What know'st thou of a heart quite changed?
  Or is thine what it was of old,
From God and things divine estranged,
  Obdurate, earthly, stony, cold?

What know'st thou of the holy birth,
  Of this new spirit born within?
Is thine still fettered to the earth,
  The sport of folly, slave of sin?

Trust not a name, whate'er it be,
  If still thy nature be the same:
The faith which wins no more for thee
  Will prove indeed an empty name!

No outward homage of the lip
  Can Christian fellowship impart,
The badge of true discipleship
  Is change of spirit and of heart.

Barton.

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THE CAUSE, USE, AND END OF THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD.

THE CAUSE IS SIN.

Gen. vi. 13; xviii. 20, 21; xix. 13. Lev. x. 1, 2. Num. xi. 1, 2, 33. Judges ii. 12—14; iii. 7, 8; iv. 1, 2; vi. 1. 1 Chron. xxi. 8—14. 2 Chron. xxxvi. 16, 17. Ezra ix. 7. Neh. ix. 30. Psalm cvi. 39—42. Ezek. xiv. 13. Dan. ix. 16.

Such evils sin hath wrought, and such a flame
Kindled in heaven, that it burns down to earth,
And in the furious inquest that it makes
On God's behalf, lays waste his fairest works.
The very elements, though each be meant
The minister of man, to serve his wants,
Conspire against him. With his breath he draws
A plague into his blood; and cannot use
Life's necessary means, but he must die:
Storms rise to o'erwhelm him, or if stormy winds
Rise not, the waters of the deep shall rise,
And needing none assistance of the storm,
Shall roll themselves ashore, and reach him there.
The earth shall shake him out of all his holds,
Or make his house his grave: nor so content,
Shall counterfeit the motions of the flood,
And drown him in her dry and gusty gulfs.

Cowper.

THE USE—TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HAND OF THE LORD.

Exod. vii. 5, 17; viii. 19, 22; xiv. 4, 31. Psalm ix. 16, 20. Isaiah xxvi. 9.

I see the hand: I worship and adore,
And justify the great Disposing Power.

Rowe.

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THE END—THE GLORY OF GOD.

Exod. viii. 10; ix. 14, 27; xiv. 4. Neh. ix. 33. Dan. iv. 37; ix. 14.

A signal for judgment the Lord has given,
The clouds from their dark bed are slowly rising,
The wicked are rife for the wrath of Heaven,
God and his glory alike despising.

He awakes to avenge His insulted name,
Whom the holy of holies cannot contain;
Whilst myriads of spirits above proclaim
That their God Jehovah alone shall reign.

Crossman.

BAPTISM.

BAPTISM IS THE OUTWARD SIGN OF ADMISSION INTO THE PROFESSING CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Matt. iii. 6, 11; xxviii. 19. Mark xvi. 16. John iii. 22. Acts viii. 38; xvi. 15, 33; xxii. 16. Rom. vi. 3, 4. 1 Cor. i. 13, 16. Col. ii. 12. 1 Peter iii. 21.

Our baptism first declares
What need we've all to cleanse;
Then shows that Christ to all God's heirs
Can purity dispense.

Water the body laves;
And if 'tis done by faith,
The blood of Jesus surely saves
The sinful soul from death.

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Baptized into his death,
We rise to life divine;
The Holy Spirit works the faith,
And water is the sign.

Hart.

THE NATURE AND DESIGN OF THE ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Matt. xxvi. 26—29. Luke xxii. 15—20. 1 Cor. x. 16; xi. 23—26.

Come, all who truly bear
The name of Christ your Lord,
His last mysterious supper share,
And keep his kindest word.

Hereby your faith approve
In Jesus sacrificed:
"In memory of my dying love,
Do this," he said, and died.

The badge and token this,
The sure confirming seal,
That he is ours, and we are his,
The servants of his will;

His dear peculiar ones,
The purchase of his blood;
His blood which once for all atones,
And brings us now to God.

Part of his church below,
We thus our right maintain;
Our living membership we show,
And in the fold remain.

C. Wesley.

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THE EXERCISE OF MIND AND DISPOSITION OF HEART WHICH IS SUITABLE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Matt. v. 23, 24. Rom. xii. 1. 1 Cor. xi. 28. 2 Cor. vii. 9, 10; xiii. 5. Gal. vi. 14. 2 Tim. ii. 19. 1 John i. 6.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God,—
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingling down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my heart, my life, my all.

Watts.

Round his table while we meet,
And humbly worship at his feet,
O may our warm affections move
In glad returns of grateful love!

Let faith our feeble senses aid,
Here may we see his love displayed,
His body broken, precious blood,
The sufferings of the Son of God.

Anon.

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THE NECESSITY OF DECIDING BETWEEN THE SERVICE OF GOD AND THE SERVICE OF THE WORLD, AS THERE IS NO MEDIUM.

Josh. xxiv. 15. 1 Kings xviii. 21. Hosea x. 2. Matt. vi. 24; x. 37. Gal. i. 10. James i. 8; iv. 4. 1 John ii. 15. Rev. iii. 15, 16.

Oh worldlinges fonde, that joyne these two so ill,
The league is nought: throwe downe the world with speede;
Take up the law, according to his will:
First seeke for heaven, and then for worldly meede;
But those that first their worldlie wish doe serve,
Their gain is losse, and seeke their soules to sterve.

G. Whitney.

THE DUTY OF A BELIEVER'S SEPARATION FROM A WORLD THAT LIETH IN WICKEDNESS.

Isaiah lii. 11. Jer. l. 8; li. 6. Rom. xii. 2. 2 Cor. vi. 17, 18. Gal. vi. 14. James i. 27; iv. 4. 1 Peter i. 14; iv. 2. 1 John ii. 15. Rev. xviii. 4.

Judge in thyself, O Christian, is it meet
To set thy heart on what beasts set their feet?
'Tis no hyperbole if you be told
You delve for dross with mattocks made of gold:
Affections are too costly to bestow
Upon the fair-faced nothings here below.
The eagle scorns to fall down from on high,
(The proverb saith,) to pounce a silly fly;
And can a Christian leave the face of God,
To embrace the earth, and dote upon a clod?

John Flavel, 1691.

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THE TWO CHIEF POINTS THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE IN VIEW, ARE TO MAINTAIN COMMUNION WITH GOD IN HIS OWN SOUL, AND TO LIVE TO HIS GLORY.

COMMUNION WITH GOD.

Psalm lxiii. 1, 2, 8; lxxiii. 25, 26, 28. Cant. iii. 1—4. Isaiah xxvi. 9. John xiv. 23. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. Phil. ii. 1; iii. 3. 1 John i. 3. Rev. iii. 20.

Thou Shepherd of Israel and mine,
The joy and desire of my heart,
For closer communion I pine,
I long to reside where thou art.
The pasture I languish to find,
Where all who their Shepherd obey
Are fed, on thy bosom reclined,
And screened from the heat of the day.

Ah! show me that happiest place,
The place of thy people's abbde;
Where saints in an extasy gaze,
And hang on a crucified God:
Thy love for a sinner declare;
Thy passion and death on the tree;
My spirit to Calvary bear,
To suffer and triumph with thee.

'Tis there with the lambs of thy flock,
There only I covet to rest;
To lie at the foot of the rock,
Or rise, to be hid in thy breast;

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'Tis there I would always abide,
And never a moment depart:
Concealed in the cleft of thy side,
Eternally held in thy heart.

C. Wesley.

TO LIVE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

Matt. v. 16. John xv. 8. Rom. vi. 13; xii. 1; xiv. 8. 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20; x. 31. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15; vii. 1. Ephes. iv. 1. Phil. i. 27. Col. i. 10. 1 Thess. ii. 12; iv. 3, 7. 1 Peter i. 15; ii. 12, 24; iv. 2, 11. 2 Peter iii. 11.

"Live while you live," the epicure would say,
And taste the pleasures of the present day;
"Live while you live," the sacred preacher cries,
And give to God each moment as it flies.
Lord, in my views let both united be;
I live to pleasure, while I live to thee.

Doddridge.

A soul redeemed demands a life of praise,
Hence the complexion of his future days;
Hence a demeanour holy and unspecked,
And the world's hatred as its sure effect.

Cowper.

A PROFESSION OF RELIGION CANNOT SAVE THE SOUL.

Matt. vii. 21. Rom. ii. 13. 1 Cor. xiii. 1—3. 2 Tim. iii. 5. Titus i. 16. James i. 22, 23, 26.

The Lord receives his highest praise
From humble minds and souls sincere;
While all the loud professor says
Offends the righteous Judge's ear.

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Not words alone it cost the Lord
To purchase pardon for his own;
Nor will a soul, by grace restored,
Return the Saviour words alone.

Easy, indeed, it were to reach
A mansion in the courts above,
If swelling words and fluent speech
Might serve instead of faith and love.

But none shall gain the blissful place,
Or God's unclouded glory see,
Who talks of free and sovereign grace,
Unless that grace has made him free.

Cowper.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST PROVES THE SINCERITY OF THE FAITH AND LOVE OF HIS PEOPLE, BY THEIR OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAWS.

Matt. vii. 21; xii. 50. John viii. 31; xiv. 15, 23; xv. 10, 14. Heb. v. 9. 1 John ii. 5; v. 3. 2 John 6.

The question is not, if our earthly race
Was once enlightened by a flash of grace,
If we sustained a place on Zion's hill,
And called him Lord; but if we did his will.

J. Taylor.

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MEDITATION.

Gen. xxiv. 63. Josh. i. 8. Psalm i. 2; iv. 4; xix. 14; lxiii. 6; lxxvii. 12; cxix. 15, 23, 48, 59, 78, 97, 148. Prov. iv. 26. 1 Tim. iv. 15.

By all means use sometimes to be alone;
Salute thyself. See what thy soul doth wear.
Dare to look in thy chest, for 'tis thy own;
And tumble up and down what thou find'st there.
Who cannot rest till he good fellows find,
He breaks up house, turns out of doors his mind.

Herbert.

'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours,
And ask them what report they bore to heaven;
And how they might have borne more welcome news.

Young.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

Psalm iv. 4; lxxvii. 6. Lam. iii. 40. 1 Cor. xi. 28. 2 Cor. xiii. 5. Gal. vi. 4.

O ask thyself, nor think the question strange,
Am I prepared to meet my awful change?
Have I believed in Christ, the sinner's friend?
Do I on Him, or on myself depend?
Have I acknowledged God in all my ways,
In every word and action lived his praise?
Is sin my hatred, godliness my aim?
Am I in life a Christian, as in name?
Do I adorn the doctrines I believe,
Or by hypocrisy my soul deceive?

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How have my fleeting hours been daily spent?
In every station have I learned content?
What solid ground have I to hope at last,
God will forgive my sins and follies past?
Let every reader thus, without delay,
With self-examination close each day.

Anon.

THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL.

2 Kings ii. 11. Job xix. 26. Matt. x. 28; xxii. 32. Luke xvi. 22—31. Rom. ii. 7. 2 Tim. i. 10. Heb. xii. 23.

I feel,
I feel my immortality o'ersweep
All pains, all tears, all time, all fears, and peal
Like the eternal thunders of the deep,
Into my ears this truth, "Thou liv'st for ever!"

Byron.

The soul, secured in her existence, smiles
At the drawn dagger, and defies its point.
The stars shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years;
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,
The wreck of matter, and the crash of worlds.

Addison.

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THE INFINITE WORTH OF THE SOUL.

Job xxvii. 8. Psalm xlix. 7, 8. Matt. vi. 25; x. 28. Mark viii. 36, 37. Luke x. 42; xii. 19—21. 1 Pet. i. 18, 19.

What is the thing of greatest price,
The whole creation round?
That which was lost in paradise,—
That which in Christ is found.

The soul of man! Jehovah's breath!
That keeps two worlds at strife;
Hell moves beneath, to work its death,
Heaven stoops to give it life.

God, to reclaim it, did not spare
His well-beloved Son;
Jesus, to save it, deigned to bear
The sins of all in One.

The Holy Spirit sealed the plan,
And pledged the blood divine,
To ransom every soul of man:
That price was paid for mine.

J. Montgomery.

THE GRACE OF THE GOSPEL DOES NOT LEAD TO LICENTIOUSNESS.

Matt. v. 19; vii. 12. Luke i. 75. Rom. vi. 1, 2, 18, 19, 22; xii. 1. 2 Cor. vii. 1. Ephes. iv. 1, 2. Phil. iv. 8. Col. i. 5, 6. 1 Thess. v. 22. Titus ii. 11, 12. 2 Pet. i. 5—8.

Talk they of morals? O thou bleeding Love!
Thou Maker of new morals to mankind!
The grand morality is love of Thee.

Young.

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The cross once seen, is death to every vice:
Else He that hung there suffered all his pain,
Bled, groaned, and agonized, and died in vain!

Cowper.

A HOLY WALK AND CONVERSATION IS INCUMBENT ON ALL WHO PROFESS TO BE FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Gen. v. 24. Neh. v. 9. Micah vi. 8. Luke i. 74, 75. Rom. iv. 12; vi. 4; viii. 1—4; xiii. 13. Gal. v. 25. Ephes. ii. 10; iv. 1; v. 2, 8, 15. Phil. i. 27. Col. i. 10; ii. 6. 1 Thess. ii. 12. 1 John i. 7; ii. 6. 3 John 3.

Walk in the light, and thou shalt find
  Thy heart made truly His,
Who dwells in cloudless light enshrined,
  In whom no darkness is.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt own
  Thy darkness passed away,
Because that light hath on thee shone,
  In which is perfect day.

Walk in the light! and ev'n the tomb
  No fearful shade shall wear;
Glory shall chase away its gloom,
  For Christ hath conquered there.

Barton.

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THE CARNAL NATURE REMAINS IN MAN AFTER HIS CONVERSION.

Matt. xxvi. 41. Rom. vii. 14, 22, 23. 1 Cor. ix. 27. Gal. v. 17. James iii. 2. 1 John i. 8, 9.

An heir of heaven, and walking thitherward,
Yet casting back a covetous eye to earth;
Emblem of strength and weakness; loving now,
And now abhorring sin; indulging now,
And now repenting sore; rejoicing now,
With joy unspeakable, and full of glory;
Now weeping bitterly, and clothed in dust;
A man willing to do, and doing not,
Doing, and willing not; embracing what
He hates, what most he loves abandoning;
Half saint and sinner half; half life, half death;
Commixture strange of heaven, and earth, and hell.

Pollok.

MORTIFICATION OF SIN.

Matt. v. 29, 30. Rom. vi. 6, 12; viii. 13. 1 Cor. ix. 27. Gal. v. 24. Ephes. iv. 22. Col. iii. 5. Heb. xii. 1, 4. 1 Peter ii. 11.

Whate'er my sinful flesh requires,
For thee I cheerfully forego;
My covetous and vain desires,
My hopes of happiness below,
My senses' and my passions' food,
And all my thirst for creature good.

C. Wesley.

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PERFECTION, THOUGH UNATTAINABLE, SHOULD BE THE CHRISTIAN'S AIM.

Lev. xi. 44. Matt. v. 48. 2 Cor. vii. 1; xiii. 9, 11. Ephes. v. 1. Phil. iii. 12—15. Col. iv. 12. Heb. vi. 1; xiii. 21. 1 Peter v. 10. 2 Peter iii. 14.

O may thy Spirit seal our souls,
And mould them to thy will,
That our weak hearts no more may stray,
But keep thy precepts still;

That to perfection's sacred height
We nearer still may rise;
And all we think, and all we do,
Be pleasing in thine eyes.

Doddridge.

THE HEART SHOULD BE KEPT PURE.

Psalm xxiv. 4; li. 6; lxxiii. 1. Prov. iv. 23. Cant. i. 6. Matt. v. 8. Acts xv. 9. 1 Tim. i. 5. 2 Tim. ii. 22. James iv. 8. 1 Peter i. 22. 1 John iii. 3.

Oh! for a heart to praise my God,—
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that's sprinkled with the blood
So freely shed for me!

An humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From Him that dwells within.

C. Wesley.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE THOUGHTS.

Psalm cxix. 113. Prov. iv. 23; xxiii. 7; xxiv. 9. Eccles. x. 20. Jer. iv. 14. Matt. xv. 8. 2 Cor. x. 5.

Guard well thy thought; our thoughts are heard
In heaven.

Young.

THE CONVERSATION OF CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE RELIGIOUS AND EDIFYING.

Deut. vi. 7. Psalm xxxv. 28; xxxvii. 30; xl. 10; lxxi. 8, 15, 24; cv. 2; cxix. 27; cxlv. 5, 7. Prov. x. 31. Mal. iii. 16. Matt. xii. 35. Luke xxiv. 13—27. Ephes. iv. 29; v. 3, 4. Phil. i. 27. Col. iv. 6. 1 Thess. iv. 18.

It happened on a solemn eventide,
Soon after He that was our Surety died,
Two bosom friends, each pensively inclined,
The scene of all those sorrows left behind,
Sought their own village, busied as they went
In musings worthy of the great event;
They spake of Him they loved, of Him whose life,
Though blameless, had incurred perpetual strife;
Whose deeds had left, in spite of hostile arts,
A deep memorial graven on their hearts.
Now theirs was converse such as it behoves
Man to maintain, and such as God approves:
Christ and his character their only scope,
Their object, and their subject, and their hope.
Well, what are ages and the lapse of time,
Matched against truths as lasting as sublime?
Hearts may be found that harbour at this hour
That love of Christ, and all its quickening power;

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And lips unstained by folly or by strife,
Whose wisdom, drawn from the deep well of life,
Tastes of its healthful origin, and flows
A Jordan for th' ablution of our woes.
When souls drawn upward in communion sweet,
Enjoy the stillness of some close retreat,
Discourse, as if released and safe at home,
Of dangers past, and wonders yet to come,
And spread the sacred treasures of the breast
Upon the lap of covenanted rest.

Cowper.

THE DUTY OF IMPROVING TIME.

Psalm xxxii. 6; cxix. 60. Prov. xxvii. 1. Eccles. viii. 5, 6; ix. 10; xii. 1. Isaiah lv. 6, 7. Hosea x. 12. Matt. xxv. 1—29. Luke xix. 41, 42. John ix. 4; xii. 35. Acts xvii. 30, 31. Rom. xiii. 11, 12. 1 Cor. vii. 29. Gal. vi. 9, 10. Ephes. v. 16. Col. iv. 5. James iv. 13, 14. Rev. ii. 21; x. 5, 6.

Redeem we time: its loss we dearly buy,
Time, the supreme! Time is eternity;
Pregnant with all that makes archangels smile:
Time was given for use, not waste.
Enjoined to fly; with tempest, tide, and stars
To keep his speed, nor ever wait for man.
Time destroyed
Is suicide, where more than blood is spilt.
Throw years away!
Throw empires, and be blameless. Moments seize;
Heaven's on their wing; a moment we may wish,
When worlds want wealth to buy.

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In human hearts what bolder thoughts can rise
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn?
Where is to-morrow? In another world.

Young.

GOD REQUIRES TO BE SERVED WITH SINCERITY.

Josh. xxiv. 14. 1 Sam. xii. 24. 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. Prov. xxiii. 26. Matt. vi. 22. Acts ii. 46. Rom. xii. 9. 1 Cor. v. 8. 2 Cor. i. 12; ii. 17. Ephes. vi. 24. Phil. i. 10. Col. iii. 22. Titus ii. 7. Heb. x. 22.

Sincerity towards the heart-searching God
Has made the new-born creature her abode,
Nor shall be found in unregenerate souls,
Till the last fire burn all between the poles.
Sincerity! the Christian's only pride,
Weak and imperfect in all grace beside;
He knows that God demands his heart entire,
And gives him all his first demands require:
Without it his pretensions were as vain,
As having it, he deems the world's disdain.
That great defect would cost him not alone
Man's favourable judgment, but his own;
His birthright shaken, and no longer clear,
Than while his conduct proves his heart sincere.

Cowper.

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CHRISTIANS ARE ENJOINED NOT TO BE OVER ANXIOUS OR CAREFUL ABOUT WORLDLY THINGS.

Psalm xxxvii. 5; lv. 22. Prov. xvi. 3. Matt. vi. 25—34; xiii. 22. Luke x. 41, 42; xii. 33, 34. 1 Cor. vii. 30—32. Phil. iv. 6. 1 Tim. iv. 8. Heb. xiii. 5. 1 Peter v. 7.

Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say,
Ev'n let the unknown to-morrow
Bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing
But He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing,
Will clothe his people too.

Beneath the spreading heavens
No creature but is fed;
And He who feeds the ravens
Will give his children bread.

Cowper.

THE LORD SOMETIMES WITHDRAWS FROM HIS PEOPLE THE SENSIBLE COMFORT OF HIS PRESENCE.

Job xiii. 23, 24; xxix. 2, 3. Psalm xiii. 1; xxii. 1; xxx. 7; xliv. 24; lxxxviii. 14. Isaiah viii. 17; l. 10; liv. 8.

The people of his choice
He will not cast away;
Yet do not always here expect
On Tabor's mount to stay.

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When we in darkness walk,
Nor feel the heavenly flame,
Then is the time to trust our God,
And rest upon his name.

Soon shall our doubts and fears
Subside at his control,
His loving-kindness shall break through
The midnight of the soul.

Toplady.

THE LORD WILL NEVER FORSAKE HIS PEOPLE.

Deut. iv. 31; xxxi. 6, 8. Josh. i. 9. 1 Sam. xii. 22. Psalm ix. 10; xxxvii. 25, 28; xciv. 14. Isaiah xlii. 16; xlvi. 4; xlix. 14—16; liv. 9, 10. Lam. iii. 31, 32. 2 Cor. iv. 9. Heb. xiii. 5.

Strange to our ears the church-bells of our home,
The fragrance of our own paternal fields
May be forgotten, and the time may come
When the babe's kiss no sense of pleasure yields
Ev'n to the doting mother: but thine own
Thou never canst forget, nor leave alone.

Keble.

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PROMISES OF SAFETY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD UNDER THE DIVINE PROTECTION.

Deut. xxxiii. 12, 27. 1 Sam. ii. 9. Job v. 19; xi. 18, 19. Psalm iv. 8; xxxii. 6; xci. 1, 4, 10, 11; cxxi. 3—8; cxxv. 2. Prov. iii. 3, 24; xii. 21; xviii. 10. Isaiah xxvii. 3; xxxiii. 16; xliii. 2. Ezek. xxxiv. 25, 28. Zech. ii. 5. Matt. x. 29. 1 Peter iii. 13.

Call Jehovah thy salvation,
  Rest beneath the Almighty's shade;
In his secret habitation
  Dwell, nor ever be dismayed:
There no tumult can alarm thee,
  Thou shalt dread no hidden snare;
Guile nor violence can harm thee,
  In eternal safeguard there.

Since, with pure and firm affection,
  Thou on God hast set thy love,
With the wings of his protection
  He will shield thee from above;
Thou shalt call on him in trouble,
  He will hearken, he will save,
Here for grief reward thee double,
  Crown with life beyond the grave.

J. Montgomery.

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DIVINE ASSISTANCE NECESSARY IN ALL OUR UNDERTAKINGS.

Gen. xxiv. 12. Prov. iii. 5, 6; xvi. 9. John xv. 5. 1 Cor. xv. 10. 2 Cor. iii. 5. Phil. ii. 13. 1 Tim. i. 12. Heb. xiii. 21.

Since man is fraile, and all his thoughts are sinne,
And of himselfe he can no good invent,
Then everie one, before they aughte beginne,
Should call on God, from whome all grace is sent.
So we beseeche that he the same will sende,
That to his praise we may beginne and ende.

G. Whitney.

CHRISTIANS ARE ENJOINED TO PERSEVERANCE IN DUTY.

Matt. x. 22. Luke ix. 62. Acts xiii. 43; xiv. 22. 1 Cor. xv. 58; xvi. 13. Gal. vi. 9. Col. i. 23. 2 Thess. iii. 13. Heb. iii. 6, 14; x. 38. 2 Peter iii. 17. Rev. ii. 10, 25.

The Christian must not hope too soon
Faith's most sublime, immortal boon;
None win by slight or brief emprize
The rich reversion of the skies.
Meek pilgrim Zionward! if thou
Hast put thy hand unto the plough,
O look not back, nor droop dismayed,
At thought of victory delayed,
Doubt not that thou, in season due,
Shalt own his gracious presence true;
And thou shalt share their glorious lot,
Whom doing well hath wearied not.

Barton.

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TRUE HAPPINESS IS ONLY TO BE FOUND IN THE RELIGION OF CHRIST.

Deut. xxxiii. 29. Job v. 17; xxii. 21. Psalm xxxvi. 8, 9; lxiii. 3; cxliv. 15; cxlvi. 5. Prov. iii. 17; xvi. 20. Isaiah xxvi. 3. Jer. ii. 13. Matt. xi. 28, 29. James v. 11. 1 Pet. iv. 14.

Happiness, thou lovely name,
  Where's thy seat? O tell me where!
Learning, pleasure, wealth, and fame
  All cry out, "It is not here!"
Not the wisdom of the wise
Can inform me where it lies;
Not the grandeur of the great
Can the bliss I seek create.

Object of my first desire,
  Jesus, crucified for me!
All to happiness aspire,
  Only to be found in Thee;
Thee to praise, and Thee to know,
Constitute our bliss below;
Thee to see, and Thee to love,
Constitute our bliss above.

Toplady.

THE CAUSES OF ATHEISM.

Job xxii. 15—17. Psalm x. 4; xiv. 1. John iii. 20. Rom. i. 28.

An atheist,—he hath never faced an hour,
And not belied the name he bore; his doubt
Is darkness, from the unbelieving will

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Begot, and oft a parasite to sin,
Too dear to be deserted; for the truth
That unveils heaven, and her immortal thrones,
Uncovers hell, and awful duties too!

R. Montgomery.

THE DUTY OF SEEKING EARLY AFTER GOD.

1 Sam. i. 22. 1 Kings xviii. 12. 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. 2 Chron. xxxiv. 3. Psalm cxix. 9. Prov. viii. 17. Eccles. xii. 1. Jer. iii. 4, 19. Lam. iii. 27. Luke ii. 49. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

Now in thy youth, beseech of Him
  Who giveth, upbraiding not,
That his light in thy heart become not dim,
  And his love be unforgot.
And thy God in the darkest of days will be
Greenness, and beauty, and strength to thee.

Barton.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE WHO ARE FAVOURED WITH THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GOSPEL.

Matt. xi. 20—24. Luke xi. 31, 32; xii. 47, 48. John xii. 48. Rom. ii. 27. Heb. ii. 2, 3; xii. 25.

The wretch who slights the bounty of the skies,
And sinks, while favoured with the means to rise,
Shall find them rated at their full amount,
The good he scorned all carried to account.

Cowper.

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PROMISES TO ANXIOUS INQUIRERS AFTER TRUTH.

Prov. ii. 2—5. Isaiah xl. 31; xlv. 19. Hosea vi. 3. Matt. vii. 7, 8; xii. 20. John vii. 17. Heb. xi. 6.

His Spirit ever brooding o'er our mind,
Sees the first wish to better hopes inclined;
Marks the young dawn of every virtuous aim,
And fans the smoking flax into a flame.
His ears are open to the softest cry,
His grace descends to meet the lifted eye;
He reads the language of a silent tear,
And sighs are incense from a heart sincere.

Mrs. Barbauld.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE BEEN IN EVERY AGE A PECULIAR PEOPLE.

Exod. xix. 5. Deut. vii. 6; xxvi. 18. Psalm lxxi. 7. Isaiah viii. 18. Zech. iii. 8. Titus ii. 14. 1 Pet. ii. 9.

A saint! O would that I could claim
The privileged,—the precious name;
And confidently take my stand,
The lowest of the saintly band.

A saint! And what imports the name,
Thus bandied in derision's game?
Holy, and separate from sin,
To good, nay, e'en to God akin.

How shall the name of saint be prized,
Though now rejected and despised,
When truth shall witness to the crowd,
That none but saints shall see the Lord!

Marriott.

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PROSPERITY OR ADVERSITY IS NO EVIDENCE OF VIRTUE OR VICE, AND CONSEQUENTLY OF THE FAVOUR OR DISPLEASURE OF GOD.

Job xii. 6; xxi. 7—17. Psalm xvii. 14; xxxvii. 35, 36; lxxiii. 3—5, 12—20; xcii. 7. Eccles. viii. 14; ix. 2. Jer. xii. 1. Matt. v. 45. Luke xiii. 1—5; xvi. 19, &c. John ix. 2, 3. Acts xxviii. 4—6.

Let not the sinner's wealth or might
The envy of thy soul excite;
Anon thine eye shall see him fade
Quick as the flower of vernal blade.
But thou thy will to heaven's high Lord
(His faith thy trust, thy rule his word)
Submit, and nourished by his hand,
Inherit from his gift the land.
With patient hope await his will,
Nor let the sight of prosperous ill
Impel thee with disquiet vain,
His wise disposals to arraign.

Merrick.

THE SIN AND FOLLY OF MAKING EXCUSES FOR NEGLECT OF DUTY.

Exod. iv. 1—17. 2 Kings v. 11—13. Jer. i. 6, 7. Matt. xxii. 5. Luke xii. 47; xiv. 18—24. John xv. 22. Acts ix. 13—15. Rom. i. 20. James iv. 17.

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ERROR ON RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY AVOIDED.

Gal. i. 8, 9. Ephes. iv. 14. 2 Thess. ii. 11, 12. 2 Tim. iv. 3. Heb. xiii. 9. 2 Peter ii. 1, 2. 2 John 9—11.

Hear the just law, the judgment of the skies!
He that hates truth shall be the dupe of lies:
And he that will be cheated to the last,
Delusions strong as hell shall bind him fast.

Cowper.

THE BELIEVER'S DUTY TO SEPARATE FROM ALL THOSE WHO HOLD UNSCRIPTURAL AND ERRONEOUS OPINIONS.

Deut. xiii. 1—3, 8. Matt. vii. 15. Rom. xvi. 17. Gal. i. 8, 9. Phil. iii. 2. Col. ii. 18. 2 Thess. iii. 6, 14. 1 Tim. vi. 5. Titus iii. 10. Heb. xiii. 9. 2 John 10, 11. Rev. ii. 14—16.

PROMISES TO BACKSLIDERS.

Jer. iii. 12, 14, 22. Hosea xi. 7—9; xiv. 4.

Return, once more return,
  O wanderer, to thy God!
A voice yet on thee calls,
  A finger points the road.
Return! the promise saith:
  Hark! wayward wanderer, ho!

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Thy sins, as scarlet red,
Shall white be made as snow.
Trust in the Saviour, trust;
Against sin's torrent strive;
Thy faith shall make thee whole,
The soul that hears shall live.

Anon.

THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD AFFORDS NO EXCUSE FOR THE SIN OF MAN.

Matt. xviii. 7; xxvi. 24. Acts ii. 23. 1 Peter ii. 7, 8. Jude 4.

None can justly accuse
Their Maker, or their making, or their fate,
As if predestination overruled
Their will, disposed by absolute decree,
Or high foreknowledge; they themselves decreed
Their own revolt, not I; if I foreknew,
Foreknowledge had no influence on their fault,
Which had no less proved certain, unforeknown.
So without least impulse or shadow of fate,
Or aught by me immutably foreseen,
They trespass, authors to themselves in all
Both what they judge, and what they choose.

Milton.

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CONSIDERATION.

Deut. viii. 5; xxxii. 29. 1 Sam. xii. 24. Job xxxiv. 26, 27. Psalm l. 22. Eccles. vii. 13, 14. Isaiah i. 3; v. 12, 13; xli. 20. Ezek. xii. 3; xviii. 28. Hosea vii. 2. Hag. i. 5, 7. Matt. vi. 28; vii. 3. Mark vi. 52. Luke xiv. 28—31; xv. 17. 2 Tim. ii. 7.

Heedless sinners to their ruin run,
Hate to consider, haste to be undone.
Each day we have mementos of the grave,
Yet studiously the thoughts of dying wave:
Man, whom God made of heaven-aspiring thought,
Shaming his nature, is with trifles caught.
Learn wisely to improve the present day,
Consideration hates profane delay;
Think how all-seeing God considers you,
And keep him in your intellectual view.
By God alone is true conversion wrought,
He calls man first to self-reflecting thought;
Preventing mercy calls you by my voice,
Heaven to consider, and make heaven your choice.

Bp. Kenn.

BELIEVERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO CONTRACT MARRIAGES WITH THE UNGODLY.

Gen. vi. 2—7; xxiv. 1—9; xxvii. 46; xxviii. 1. Exod. xxxiv. 12, 16. Deut. vii. 1—4. Josh. xxiii. 12, 13. Judg. iii. 5—7. 1 Kings xi. 4—9; xvi. 31; xxi. 25. 2 Chron. xxi. 5, 6. Ezra ix. 2—4; x. 1, 19. Neh. xiii. 23—27. 1 Cor. vii. 39. 2 Cor. vi. 14—18.

Seeming at first all heavenly under virgin veil,
Once joined, the contrary she proves, a thorn
Intestine, far within defensive arms

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A cleaving mischief, in his way to virtue
Adverse and turbulent; or by her charms
Draws him awry enslaved
With dotage, and his sense depraved
To folly, and shameful deeds, which ruin ends.
What pilot so expert but needs must wreck,
Embarked with such a steers-mate at the helm?

Milton.

THE BELIEVER NOT ONLY MOURNS FOR HIS OWN SINS, BUT FOR THOSE OF THE UNGODLY AROUND HIM.

Deut. ix. 18, 19. Ezra ix. 2, 3. Psalm cxix. 53, 136, 158. Jer. xiii. 17. Ezek. ix. 4. Acts xvii. 16. Phil. iii. 18. 2 Peter ii. 8.

My God, I feel the mournful scene;
My bowels yearn o'er dying men!
And fain my pity would reclaim,
And snatch the firebrands from the flame.

But feeble my confession proves,
And can but weep where most it loves.
Thy own all-saving arm employ,
And turn these drops of grief to joy.

Doddridge.

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PROMISES TO THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOW.

Exod. xxii. 22—24. Deut. x. 18. Psalm x. 14, 18; lxviii. 5; cxlvi. 9. Prov. xv. 25; xxiii. 10, 11. Jer. xlix. 11. Hosea xiv. 3. James i. 27.

Father of the fatherless,
  Husband of the widow prove;
Me and mine persist to bless,
  Tell me we shall meet above,
Seal the promise on my heart,
Bid me then in peace depart.

C. Wesley.

MAN IS FORBIDDEN TO BOAST IN HIS OWN TALENTS OR ADVANTAGES.

2 Kings xix. Psalm xxxiv. 2; xliv. 6, 8; cxv. 1. Jer. ix. 23, 24. Dan. iv. 29—33. Acts xii. 20—23. 1 Cor. i. 31; iv. 7. 2 Cor. x. 17. Ephes. ii. 9.

Can he be fair, that withers at a blast?
Or he be strong, that airy breath can cast?
Can he be wise, that knows not how to live?
Or he be rich, that nothing hath to give?
Can he be young, that's feeble, weak, and wan?
So fair, strong, wise, so rich, so young is man!
So fair is man, that death, a parting blast,
Blasts his fair flower, and makes him earth at last;
So strong is man, that with a gasping breath
He totters, and bequeaths his strength to death;
So wise is man, that if with death he strive,
His wisdom cannot teach him how to live;

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So rich is man, that all his debts being paid,
His wealth's the winding-sheet wherein he's laid;
So young is man, that broke with care and sorrow,
He's old enough to-day, to die to-morrow.
Why bragg'st thou then, thou worm of five foot long?
Thou'rt neither fair, nor strong, nor wise, nor rich, nor young.

Quarles, 1592.

THE DIGNITY AND HAPPINESS OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.

Deut. xxxiii. 29. Job xxxvi. 7. Psalm cxliv. 15. Prov. xii. 2. Matt. v. 13, 14. John xiv. 21, 23; xvii. 11, 21—26. Rom. ii. 10; viii. 17, 21, 23. 1 Cor. iii. 16, 21, 22. Gal. iv. 28. Phil. ii. 15. Col. i. 26. 2 Thess. ii. 13. Titus ii. 14. Heb. i. 14; xii. 22, 23. 1 Peter ii. 9. 1 John iii. 1, 2. Rev. i. 6.

Honour and happiness unite
To make the Christian's name a praise;
How fair the scene, how clear the light,
That fills the remnant of his days!

A kingly character he bears,
No change his priestly office knows;
Unfading is the crown he wears,
His joys can never reach a close.

Adorned with glory from on high,
Salvation shines upon his face;
His robe is of th' ethereal dye,
His steps are dignity and grace

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The noblest creature here below,
Ordained to fill a throne above;
God gives him all he can bestow,—
The kingdom of eternal love.

Cowper.

TEMPORAL BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.

Psalm xxiii. 6; lxxxiv. 11; cxxviii.; cxliv. 12—15. Eccles. ii. 26. Matt. vi. 33; x. 29, 30. Rom. viii. 28, 32. 1 Cor. iii. 21, 22. 1 Tim. iv. 8; vi. 17.

Servant of God! how blest art thou,
Of every good possessed;
Lo, happiness thy portion now,
And heaven thy future rest!

Thy wife shall be a fruitful vine,
The treasure of thy youth,
And to a good old age be thine,
In love, and peace, and truth.

As branches from the olive tree
Adorn the parent stem,
Thy children shall be blest in thee,
And thou be blest in them.

Anon.

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BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO THE FAMILIES OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.

Psalm xxxvii. 25, 26; cii. 28; cxii. 2; cxxviii. 3—6. Prov. iii. 33; xii. 7; xiii. 22; xiv. 11; xx. 7. Jer. xxxii. 39. Acts ii. 39.

I've seen the heir of guilt and care,
And watched his wandering eye;
I've seen the tear of anguish flow,
And heard the troubled sigh.

I've seen the victim of despair,
A prey to want and sin;
I've looked upon his brow when there
Was writ the curse of sin.

These, I have seen; but never yet
Have seen the child of prayer
Abandoned by his God, to eat
The bitter bread of care.

Tappan.

INTIMATIONS RESPECTING A KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER IN THE FUTURE STATE.

Luke xvi. 19—31. 1 Thess. ii. 19; iv. 14. Rev. v. 9.

Farewell, each dearest union
That bless'd my earthly hours,
We yet shall hold communion
In amaranthine bowers.

The love that seems forsaken
When friends in death depart,
In heaven again shall waken,
And repossess the heart.

Edmeston.

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CONSCIENCE.

CONSCIENCE IS COMMON TO ALL.

Gen. xlii. 21. Prov. xx. 27. John viii. 9. Rom. ii. 15. 1 Tim. iv. 2. Heb. ix. 14.

I will place within them as a guide
My umpire, conscience; whom if they will hear
Light after light, well used, they shall attain.

Milton.

THE HAPPINESS OF POSSESSING A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

Prov. xiv. 14; xxviii. 1. Acts xxiii. 1; xxiv. 16. Rom. xiv. 22. 2 Cor. i. 12. Gal. vi. 4. 1 Tim. i. 19; iii. 9. 2 Tim. i. 3. Heb. xiii. 18. 1 John iii. 19, 21.

My conscience is my crown,
Contented thoughts my rest;
My heart is happy in itself,
My bliss is in my breast.

R. Southwell, 1595.

The mind is its own place, and in itself
Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.

Milton.

THE TERRORS OF AN EVIL CONSCIENCE.

Gen. xlii. 21. 2 Sam. xxiv. 10. Psalm xxxviii. 3; liii. 5. Prov. xxviii. 1. Matt. xxvii. 3, 4. Acts xxiv. 25. Titus i. 5.

Conscience, tremendous conscience, in its fits
Of inspiration, whencesoe'er it came
Rose like a ghost, inflicting fear of death
On those who feared not death in fiercest battle,

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And mocked him in their martyrdom of torments:
That secret, swift, and silent messenger
Broke on them in their lonely hours; in sleep,
In sickness; haunting them with dire suspicions
Of something in themselves that would not die,
Of an existence elsewhere and hereafter
Of which tradition was not wholly silent,
Yet spake not out: its dreary oracles
Confounded superstition to conceive,
And baffled scepticism to reject.
What fear of death is like the fear beyond it?

J. Montgomery.

COUNTRIES RISE OR FALL IN THE SCALE OF NATIONS IN PROPORTION AS TRUE RELIGION FLOURISHES OR DECLINES.

Lev. xxvi. Deut. vii. 12—26; xxviii. Jud. ii. 20, 21. 1 Kings iv. 20—34, compared with 2 Chron. vii. 12—22. 2 Kings xvii. 7—23. 2 Chron. xvii. 3—13; xxix. 5—10; xxxi. 20, 21; xxxii. 22—30. Psalm cvii. 34. Prov. xiv. 34. Jer. xii. 4; xvi. 10, 11; xvii. 19—27; xxii. 3—5. Ezek. xiv. 13. Hosea iv. 1—3.

States thrive or wither as moons wax and wane,
Ev'n as his will and his decrees ordain;
While honour, virtue, piety bear sway,
They flourish; and, as these decline, decay:
In just resentment of his injured laws,
He pours contempt on them and on their cause;
Strikes the rough thread of error right athwart
The web of every scheme they have at heart!

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Bids rottenness invade and bring to dust
The pillars of support on which they trust,
And do his errand of disgrace and shame
On the chief strength and glory of the frame.

Cowper.

THE TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT OF SIN.

Gen. iii. 17; iv. 10—12; xiii. 11, 12, compared with xiv. 12; xix. 17—29; xxvii. 35, compared with xxxi. 41; xxx. 1, compared with xxxv. 16—18; xlii. 21. Num. xii. 1, 10. Deut. xxxii. 50—52. 1 Sam. ii. 22—34; iii. 12—14; xv. 22, 23. 2 Sam. xii. 9—14; xxiv. 10—13. 1 Kings xiii. 4; xxi. 19. 2 Kings i. 3, 4; v. 20—27; ix. 36, 37. 2 Chron. xxvi. 19—21. Psalm lxxxix. 30—32. Acts v. 1—11; xiii. 8—11. 1 Cor. x. 1—10.

IT IS SOMETIMES LAWFUL TO AVOID PERSECUTION.

1 Sam. xix. 11, 12. 1 Kings xix. 2, 3. Matt. ii. 12; iv. 12; x. 16, 23; xii. 14, 15. John vii. 1. Acts viii. 1; ix. 24, 25; xiv. 5, 6; xvii. 13—15. 2 Cor. xi. 32, 33.

NATIONAL AND PRIVATE FASTS WERE CUSTOMARY IN ALL AGES OF THE CHURCH.

1 Sam. vii. 6; xxxi. 13. 2 Sam. xii. 22, 23. 1 Kings xxi. 9, 27. 2 Chron. xx. 3. Ezra viii. 21, 23. Neh. ix. 1. Esther iv. 16. Psalm xxxv. 13. Isaiah lviii. 3, 5, 6. Jer. xxxvi. 9. Dan. ix. 3. Joel i. 14; ii. 12, 15. Jonah iii. 5. Zech. viii. 19. Matt. iv. 2; vi. 16—18; xvii. 21. Luke ii. 37. Acts x. 30; xiv. 23. 1 Cor. vii. 5. 2 Cor. vi. 5; xi. 27.

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THE REASON OF MAN SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN RELIGION.

Isaiah i. 18; v. 3, 4. Matt. xvi. 2, 3. Luke xii. 47. Acts xvii. 2. 1 Cor. x. 15; xi. 13.

Fond as we are, and justly fond of faith,
Reason, we grant, demands our first regard;
The mother honoured, as the daughter dear,
Reason the root, fair faith is but the flower;
The fading flower shall die; but reason lives
Immortal, as her father in the skies.
When faith is virtue, reason makes it so.
'Tis reason our great Master holds so dear;
'Tis reason's injured rights his wrath resents,
'Tis reason's voice obeyed his glories crown;
To give lost reason life, he poured his own.

Young.

FRIENDSHIP.

Deut. xiii. 6. 1 Sam. xviii. 1. Psalm lv. 14. Prov. xvii. 17; xviii. 24; xxvii. 9, 17. Eccles. iv. 9, 10. John xi. 35; xiii. 23.

True bliss, if man may reach it, is composed
Of hearts in union mutually disclosed;
And, farewell else all hope of pure delight,
These hearts should be reclaimed, renewed, upright.
Souls that carry on a blest exchange
Of joys they meet with in the heavenly range,
And with a fearless confidence make known
The sorrows sympathy esteems its own,

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Daily derive increasing light and force
From such communion in their pleasant course,
Feel less the journey's roughness and its length,
Meet their opposers with united strength,
And, one in heart, in interest, and design,
Gird up each other to the race divine.

Cowper.

PATRIOTISM.

Neh. ii. 3. Psalm li. 18; cxxii. 6; cxxvi. 1; cxxxvii. 5. Isaiah xxii. 4. Jer. xiv. 17; xxii. 10. Dan. ix. 16—19. Matt. xxiii. 37. Luke xix. 41—44. Rom. x. 1.

Is that passion which we deem divine,
Which makes the timid brave, the brave resistless,
Makes men seem heroes, heroes demi-gods—
A poor mere mortal feeling? No! tis false!
The Deity himself proves it divine;
For when the Deity conversed with men
He was himself a patriot to the earth.
To all mankind a Saviour was he sent,
And all he loved with a Redeemer's love;
But still his warmest love, his tenderest care,
His life, his heart, his blessings, and his mournings,
His smiles, his tears he gave to thee, Jerusalem—
To thee, his country! Though with a prophet's gaze
He saw the future sorrows of the world;
And all the miseries of the human race,
From age to age, rehearsed their parts before him;
Though he beheld the fall of gasping Rome
Crushed by descending Vandals; though he heard

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The shriek of Poland; when the spoilers came;
and his eye could pierce
The coming woes that we have yet to feel;
Yet still on Zion's walls alone he hung,
Thought of no trench, but that round Sion cast;
Beheld no widows mourn but Israel's daughters,
Beheld no slaughter but of Judah's sons—
On them alone the tears of heaven he dropped.
Thou art not mortal, thou didst come from heaven,
Spirit of patriotism! thou art divine!

Rev. C. Wolfe.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

Exod. xx. 10. Deut. xxii. 6, 7; xxv. 4. Prov. xii. 10.
Matt. xii. 11, 12.

I would not enter on my list of friends,
(Though graced with polished manners and fine sense,
Yet wanting sensibility) the man
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm:
An inadvertent step may crush the snail,
That crawls at evening in the public path;
But he that has humanity, forewarned,
Will tread aside, and let the reptile live.
Man may dismiss compassion from his heart,
But God will never. When he charged the Jew
To assist his foe's down-fallen beast to rise;
And when the bush-exploring boy, that seized
The young, to let the parent-bird go free;
Proved he not plainly, that his meaner works
Are yet his care, and have an interest all,—
All, in the universal Father's love?

Cowper.

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EARLY RISING.

Gen. xix. 27; xxii. 3; xxviii. 18. Exod. viii. 20. Josh. vii. 16. 1 Sam. ix. 26. Job i. 5. Prov. vi. 9; xx. 13. Mark i. 35.

Falsely luxurious, will not man awake,
And, springing from the bed of sloth, enjoy
The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,
To meditation due, and sacred song?
For is there aught in sleep can charm the wise?
To lie in dead oblivion, losing half
The fleeting moments of too short a life?
Total extinction of th' enlightened soul.

Thomson.

THE DUTY OF STUDYING THE WORKS OF GOD.

1 Kings iv. 33. Job xii. 7—9; xxxvii. 14. Psalm viii. 3; xix. 1; xxviii. 5; cxliii. 5. Isaiah v. 12. Matt. vi. 28.

Sweet to muse upon His skill displayed,
Infinite skill, in all that he has made!
To trace in nature's most minute design
The signature and stamp of power divine;
Contrivance intricate, expressed with ease,
Where unassisted sight no beauty sees!
The shapely limb and lubricated joint,
Within the small dimensions of a point;
Muscle and nerve miraculously spun,
His mighty work, who speaks and it is done.
Then with a glance of fancy to survey,
Far as the faculty can stretch away,
Ten thousand rivers, poured at his command,
From urns that never fail, through every land;

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These like a deluge, with impetuous force,
Those winding modestly a silent course;
The cloud-surmounting Alps, the fruitful vales;
Seas on which every nation spreads her sails;
The sun, a world, whence other worlds drink light,
The crescent moon, the diadem of night;
Stars countless, each in his appointed place,
Fast anchored in the deep abyss of space;—
At such a sight to catch the poet's flame,
And with a rapture like his own exclaim,
These are thy glorious works, thou Source of good,
How dimly seen, how faintly understood!
Thine, and upheld by thy paternal care,
This universal frame, thus wondrous fair;
Thy power divine, and bounty beyond thought,
Adored and praised in all that thou hast wrought.

Cowper.

AGAINST THE LOVE OF DRESS.

Isaiah iii. 16—24. Matt. vi. 28. 1 Tim. ii. 9, 10.
1 Peter iii. 3—5.

What is the body we admire?
Fond of its beauteous form,
We deck it in a rich attire,
While life its cheeks adorn.

Spend not thy precious time in dress,
Which God to thee has given;
But through the crowd to Jesus press,
And fight the way to heaven.

Clarke.

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THE NAMES BY WHICH SATAN IS DESIGNATED

Isaiah xxvii. 1. Matt. iv. 3; xii. 24, 26; xiii. 19, 38. John viii. 44. 2 Cor. iv. 4; vi. 15; xi. 3. Ephes. ii. 2. 1 Peter v. 8. Rev. ix. 11; xii. 9—12; xx. 2.

Stronger than the strong man, thou
His fury canst control:
Cast him out, by entering now,
And keep our ransomed soul:
Satan's kingdom overthrow,
On all the powers of darkness tread;
O avenge us of our foe,
And bruise the serpent's head.

C. Wesley.

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.

Deut. x. 17. 2 Chron. xix. 7. Job xxxiv. 19. Acts x. 34. Rom. ii. 11. Gal. ii. 6. Ephes. vi. 9. Col. iii. 25. 1 Pet. i. 17.

Early from heaven it was revealed, and oft
Repeated in the world, from pulpits preached,
And penned and read in holy books, that God
Respected not the persons of mankind.

Pollok.

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PROPHECIES RELATIVE TO FALSE AND INFIDEL TEACHERS.

Matt. xxiv. 11, 24. Acts xx. 29. 1 Tim. iv. 1, 2. 2 Peter ii. 1; iii. 3. Jude 18.

Lust in their hearts,
And mischief in their hands, they roam the earth,
To prey upon each other: stubborn, fierce,
High-minded, foaming out their own disgrace.
Thy prophets speak of such; and, noting down
The features of the last degenerate times,
Exhibit every lineament of these.

Cowper.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE CHIEF CONCERN OF MAN.

Matt. v. 29, 30; vi. 33; vii. 13, 14; xvi. 26. Luke x. 42; xiii. 24. John vi. 27.

Nothing is worth a thought beneath,
But how I may escape the death
That never, never dies!
How make mine own election sure,
And when I fail on earth, secure
A mansion in the skies!

C. Wesley.

WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST TEACH.

Acts ii. 33. Rom. i. 4; iv. 24, 25; vi. 4, 9—11. 1 Cor. xv. 19—22. Col. iii. 1, 2. 1 Thess. iv. 14. 1 Pet. i. 3.

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WHAT IS THE BEST CHOICE.

Deut. xxx. 19. Josh. xxiv. 15. Psalm lxxxiv. 10. Matt. vi. 33. Luke x. 42. Heb. xi. 24—26.

O that we could for ever sit,
With Mary, at the Master's feet;
Be this our happy choice!
Our only care, delight, and bliss,
Our joy, our heaven on earth be this,
To hear the Bridegroom's voice.

Thy only love may we require,
Nothing on earth beneath desire,
Nothing in heaven above:
Let earth and all its trifles go,
Give us, O Lord, thy love to know,
Give us thy precious love!

C. Wesley.

FULFILLED PROPHECY.

FULFILLED PROPHECIES RELATIVE TO THE SIEGE AND DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

Lev. xxvi. 29. Deut. xxviii. 53—57. Isaiah xxix. 1—4. Jer. xxvi. 18. Micah iii. 12. Matt. xxiv. 1, 2, 15, 16. Luke xix. 43, 44; xxiii. 27—30.

Then fell at length his vengeful stroke,
The necks that scorned to bend, he broke;
The shrine his hand had guarded well,
Himself destroyed, and Zion fell.

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Final and unretrieved her fall;
The heathen ploughshare razed her wall,
And o'er the race of Judah's kings
Rome's slaughtering eagle clapped her wings.

L. E.

RELATIVE TO THE JEWS.

Lev. xxvi. 33, 36, 37. Deut. iv. 27; xxviii. Isaiah vi. 10—12. Jer. viii. 3; ix. 16; xv. 4; xvi. 13; xxiv. 9, 10; xxix. 18. Ezek. v. 10; xii. 16, 19. Hosea iii. 4; ix. 17. Amos ix. 4, 9.

O Israel! of all nations most undone!
Thy diadem displaced, thy sceptre gone;
Thy temple, once thy glory, fall'n and razed,
And thou a worshipper ev'n where thou may'st;
Thy services, once holy, without spot,
Mere shadows now, their ancient pomp forgot;
Thy Levites, once a consecrated host,
No longer Levites, and their lineage lost,
And thou thyself o'er every country sown,
With none on earth that thou canst call thine own.

Cowper.

Tribes of the wandering foot and weary breast,
How shall ye flee away, and be at rest?
The wild dove hath her nest, the fox his cave,
Mankind their country,—Israel but the grave!

Byron.

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RELATIVE TO THE COUNTRY OF JUDEA.

Lev. xxvi. 31, 35, 43. Deut. xxix. 22—24, 27. Isaiah i. 7, 8; v. 6, 7, 9; vi. 11, 12; xxvii. 10, 11; xxxii. 9—15; xxxiii. 8, 9. Ezek. vi. 14; xii. 19, 20.

People that travel through thy wasted land,
Gaze on thy ruins, and amazed stand,
They shake their spleenful heads, disdain, deride
The sudden downfall of so fair a pride;
They clap their joyful hands, and fill their tongues
With hisses, ballads, and with lyric songs:
Her torments give their empty lips new matter,
And with their scornful fingers point they at her:
"Is this (say they,) that place whose wonted fame
Made troubled earth to tremble at her name?
Is this that state? Are these those goodly stations?
Is this that mistress and that queen of nations?"

Quarles.

RELATIVE TO EDOM OR IDUMEA.

Isaiah xxxiv. 5, 6, 10. Jer. xlix. 7, 10, 16—18. Ezek. xxv. 12—14; xxxv. Joel iii. 19. Obadiah 1—18. Amos i. 11, 12. Mal. i. 3, 4.

RELATIVE TO SAMARIA.

Micah i. 6.

TO AMMON.

Jer. xlix. 2, 3. Ezek. xxi. 28—32; xxv. 1—5, 10. Amos i. 13, 14. Zeph. ii. 9.

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TO MOAB.

Isaiah xv.; xvi. Jer. xlviii. Ezek. xxv. 11. Amos ii. 1, 2. Zeph. ii. 9.

TO NINEVEH.

Nahum i. 8—10; ii.; iii. Zeph. ii. 13—15.

Go thou to Nineveh,
Thou prophet of the Lord most high!
The voice of her iniquities
Hath pierced the lofty sky:
Tell her,———
Proud Nineveh shall be no more.

E. Taylor.

TO BABYLON.

Isaiah xiii. 19—22; xiv. 4, 22, 23; xxi. 2—9; xlv. 1—3; xlvi. 1; xlvii. Jer. l. 1—3, 9—11, 23—32, 35—46; li.

The glory of Babel, the proud, is no more!
She hath perished as lesser things perished before;
She is desolate now, and the dragon crawls
O'er the muddy heaps of her ruined walls;
And the serpents creep, and the wild beasts stray
Where her chambers of state and her proud halls lay;
And nothing is left, save a tale of her fame,
The fame of her glory, and wreck of her name.

Anon.

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TO TYRE.

Isaiah xxiii. Jer. xxv. 17, 22; xlvii. 4. Ezek. xxvi.; xxvii.; xxviii. 1—19. Amos i. 9. Zech. ix. 2—4.

Now where are your divers, your vessels of fire?
Your wisdom, that chained the bright god of the lyre?
Not Hercules' strength can avert a decree,
Jehovah in council has destined to be.

Adieu to your merchants, your riches, your pride!
Farewell to your bulwarks that spring from the tide!
Farewell to your princes, in vestures of gold;
Howl, people of Tarshish! your city is sold.

Mrs. J. Mott.

TO EGYPT.

Isaiah xix. 1—17. Jer. xlvi. 11—25. Ezek. xxix. 8—12; xxx. 12, 13; xxxii. 15. Zech. x. 11.

To Gilead depart, try its balm for a while,
Fair daughter of Egypt, the land of the Nile!
By balsam of health thou may'st oft be allured;
In vain wilt thou use them, thou shalt not be cured.

The nations have heard of thy shame, and the sound
Of thy cry hath re-echoed the nations around;
Thy mighty shall stumble, dismayed be the brave,
And both shall inherit together the grave.

Anon.

TO PHILISTIA.

Jer. xlvii. 5. Ezek. xxv. 16, 17. Amos i. 6—8. Zeph. ii. 4—6. Zech. ix. 5, 6.

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TO THE ARABS.

Gen. xvi. 12; xvii. 20. Jer. xxxv. 18, 19.

Why weepest thou, fond mother?
  Thy child is blest of heaven!
Though to his younger brother,
  The land of Canaan's given.
The Lord, the God of Abraham,
  Who parcels out the earth,
Will not forget thy little one,
  A prince of noble birth;
And he hath promised that from him
  Shall rise a hardy race,
Unconquered in the battle-field,
  Unrivalled in the chase.

Ragg.

PROMISES OF RESTORATION TO MOAB, AMMON, AND EGYPT.

Isaiah xix. 19, 25. Jer. xlviii. 47; xlix. 6.

PROPHECIES, WITH THEIR FULFILMENT, WHICH SPEAK OF THE ADMISSION OF THE GENTILES TO ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GOSPEL CHURCH.

Isaiah xlii. 1, 6, 7; xlix. 6; lii. 10; lxv. 1. Hosea ii. 23. Micah iv. 1. Joel ii. 32. Mal. i. 11. Luke ii. 32; iii. 6; xxiv. 47. John x. 16. Acts x. 45. Rom. xi. 11. Ephes. ii. 11—19; iii. 8.

Thus saith the Lord, "My church, to thee,
  Peace like a river I will send;
The Gentiles, in a stream, shall see
  My mercy flowing without end.

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The isles, that never heard my fame,
Nor knew the glory of my might,
They shall be taught to fear my name,
Called out of darkness into light."

J. Montgomery.

THE DUTY OF PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF MISSIONARIES.

Isaiah lii. 7. Matt. x. 8; xxviii. 19. Luke xxiv. 47. Rom. x. 14, 15, 17. James v. 20. Rev. xiv. 6; xxi. 8.

I sing the men who left their home,
Amidst barbarian hordes to roam;
Who land and ocean crossed,
Led by a loadstar, marked on high
By faith's unseen, all-seeing eye,
To seek and save the lost;
Where'er the curse on Adam spread,
To call his offspring from the dead.

Strong in the great Redeemer's name,
They bore the cross, despised the shame;
And like their Master here,
Wrestled with danger, pain, distress,
Hunger, and cold, and nakedness,
And every form of fear;
To feel his love their only joy;
To tell that love, their sole employ.

J. Montgomery.

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UNFULFILLED PROPHECY.

THE DUTY OF STUDYING UNFULFILLED PROPHECY.

Dan. ix. 2. 1 Thess. v. 20. 1 Peter i. 11. 2 Peter i. 19. Rev. i. 3.

PROMISES OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCH AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

Psalm ii. 8; xxii. 27, 28; lxxii. 11, 17; lxxxvi. 9; cii. 15. Isaiah ii. 2; lii. 10. Dan. ii. 44; vii. 13, 14. Hab. ii. 14. Mal. i. 11. Matt. xxiv. 14. Rev. xiv. 6.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Watts.

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THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS SHOULD BE A SUBJECT OF PRAYER.

Psalm cxxi. 6. Isaiah lxii. 6, 7. Rom. x. 1.

Messiah, full of grace,
Redeemed by thee, we plead
The promise made to Abraham's race,
To souls for ages dead.

Their bones are quite dried up,
Throughout the vale appear,
Cut off and lost their last faint hope
To see thy kingdom here.

Open their graves, and bring
The outcasts forth, to own
Thou art their Lord, their God, and King,
Their true Anointed One.

C. Wesley.

THE RESTORATION OF THE JEWS.

Isaiah xi. 10—16; xliii. 5, 6; lx. 4—9. Jer. xvi. 14, 15; xxiii. 7, 8; xxx. 10; xxxiii. 7—26; l. 19. Ezek. xi. 17; xxviii. 25, 26; xxxiv. 11—31; xxxvi.; xxxvii.; xxxix. 25—29. Amos ix. 14, 15. Zeph. iii. 20. Zech. viii. 1—8; x. 6—10.

Weep no more, Zion! dry thy streaming tears;
The Eternal is thy God, dismiss thy fears;
Rest in the land of peace for thee remains,
Jehovah leads thee, Israel's strength sustains.

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He will restore thee ev'n as from the dead,
The vine and olives o'er thy wrecks shall spread;
He will rebuild, as in thy happiest hours,
Thy city walls, thy battlements, and towers.

Translated from the French of Felix Neff
by J. Montgomery.

MIRACULOUS RESTORATION.

Isaiah xi. 15; xxvii. 12; lii. 12. Ezek. xx. 33, 34.
Micah ii. 12, 13; vii. 15.

'Tis done! has breathed thy trumpet blast,
The tribes at length have wept their last!
On rolls the host! from land and wave
The earth sends up the unransomed slave:
There rides no glittering chivalry,
No banner purples in the sky;
The world within their hearts hath died,
Two thousand years have slain their pride!
The look of pale remorse is there,
The lip in voluntary prayer;
Thè form still marked with many a stain,
Brand of the soil, the scourge, the chain;
The serf of Afric's fiery ground;
The slave by Indian suns embrowned;
The weary drudges of the oar,
By the swart Arab's poisoned shore;
The gath'ring of earth's wildest tract,
On bursts the living cataract!
What strength of man can check its speed?
They come, the nation of the freed:

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Who leads their march? Beneath His wheel
Back rolls the sea, the mountains reel!
Before their march His trump is blown,
Who speaks in thunder, and 'tis done!

Croly.

RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH.

Isaiah xi. 10—12. Jer. iii. 18; xxx. 3; xxxi. 27, 28; xxxiii. 7. Ezek. xxxvii. 21, 22. Hosea i. 11. Zech. x. 6.

Ye mariners of Tarshish, hoist the sail!
The seed of Judah is your glorious freight.
Beneath the withered palm no more shall weep
The captive Solyma. As doves return
Long exiled, and around their native roof
Exulting flutter on the wings of joy,
So shall from every wind be gathered home
The residue of Israel.

W. Tighe.

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

Isaiah x. 20, 21. Jer. xxxi. 31—34; xxxii. 39; l. 4, 5, 20. Ezek. xi. 19, 20; xxxvi. 25—27; xxxix. 29. Zech. xii. 10. Rom. xi. 23, 27. 2 Cor. iii. 15, 16.

Hast thou finally forsook,
For ever cast thine own away?
Wilt thou not bid the murderers look
On him they pierced, and weep, and pray?
Yes, gracious Lord, thy word is past,
All Israel shall be saved at last.

C. Wesley.

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JERUSALEM REBUILT.

Isaiah lii. 1, 2; lxii. 6, 7. Jer. xxx. 18—21; xxxiii. 10—12. Zech. i. 17; viii. 3—6; xii. 6.

Behold, the measure of the promise filled!
See Salem built, the labour of a God!
Bright as a sun the sacred city shines.

Cowper.

JERUSALEM ENLARGED.

Jer. xxxi. 38—40. Zech. xiv. 9—11.

TEMPLE REBUILT.

Isaiah lx. 13. Jer. xxxiii. 17, 18. Ezek. xxxvii. 26—28; xl. 46. Zech. i. 16; vi. 12. Amos ix. 11, 12. Acts xv. 16, 17.

Rebuilt by his command,
Jerusalem shall rise;
The temple on Moriah stand
Again, and touch the skies.

C. Wesley.

THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST.

IGNORANCE AND UNBELIEF OF THE GENTILE NATIONS RESPECTING THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

Isaiah xxv. 7; lx. 2. Matt. xxiv. 37—39. Luke xvii. 28—30; xviii. 8; xix. 27; xxi. 35. 2 Peter iii. 3, 4.

O earth! thy hour was come! the last elect
Was born, complete the number of the good,

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The cup of guilt was full up to the brim;
But man knew not: he o'er his bowl laughed loud,
And, prophesying said, "To-morrow shall
As this day be, and more abundant still."

Pollok.

THE MANNER AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REDEEMER'S COMING.

Matt. xxiv. 27, 37—39, 43, 44; xxv. 31; xxvi. 64. Mark xiv. 62. Luke xvii. 24, 26, 28—30; xxi. 34, 35. Acts i. 11. 1 Thess. v. 2. 2 Thess. ii. 8. 2 Peter iii. 10. Rev. i. 7; xvi. 15.

Amid thy pride and luxury,
O earth! shall that last coming burst on thee,
That secret coming of the Son of man;
When all the cherub-throning clouds shall shine,
Irradiate with his bright advancing sign,
When the great Husbandman shall wave his fan,
Sweeping, like chaff, thy wealth and pomp away:
Still to the noontide of that nightless day,
Shalt thou thy wonted dissolute course maintain
Along the busy mart and crowded street,
The buyer and the seller still shall meet,
And marriage feasts begin their jocund strain.
Still to the pouring out the cup of woe;
Till earth a drunkard, reeling to and fro,
And mountains molten by his burning feet,
And heaven his presence own, all red with furnace heat.

Milman.

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TROUBLOUS TIMES AT HIS COMING.

Num. xxiv. 17, 23, 24. Isaiah xxvi. 20, 21. Dan. vii. 21, 22, 25; xii. 1. Matt. xxiv. 21. Luke xxi. 22, 25, 26. Rev. xiii. 7.

When from scattered lands afar,
Speeds the voice of rumoured war;
Nations in tumultuous pride,
Heaved like ocean's roaring tide;
When the solar splendours fail,
And the crescent waxeth pale;
And the powers that starlike reign
Sink dishonoured to the plain;
World, do thou the signal dread.

Anon.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS.

Isaiah xiii. 10; xxiv. 23. Joel ii. 10, 31; iii. 15. Matt. xxiv. 29. Mark xiii. 24. Luke xxi. 25. Rev. vi. 12, 13.

In the sun, and moon, and stars,
Signs and wonders there shall be;
Earth shall quake with inward wars,
Nations with perplexity.

Heber.

FIG-TREE CASTING HER UNTIMELY FIGS.

Isaiah xxxiv. 4. Matt. xxiv. 32, 33. Rev. vi. 13.

Not surer does each tender gem
Set in the fig-tree's polished stem
Foreshow the summer season bland,
Than these dread signs thy mighty hand.

Keble.

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SHAKING OF THE HEAVENS AND EARTH.

Isaiah xxiv. 19, 20; xxxiv. 4. Joel ii. 10; iii. 16. Hag. ii. 6, 7, 21. Heb. xii. 26, 27. Rev. vi. 14.

Lo! a second time he comes
To shake the earth and rend the tombs:
These heavens before him melt away,
And sun and stars in smoke decay.

Doddridge.

ANTICHRIST DESTROYED BY THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Dan. ii. 44; vii. 10, 11, 26. 2 Thess. ii. 8. Rev. xix. 20; xx. 10.

The dragon wounded with his flaming brand
They take, and in strong bonds and fetters tie:
Short was the fight, nor could he long withstand
Him whose appearance is his victory.
So now he's bound in adamantine chain:
He storms, he roars, he yells in high disdain,
His net is broke, the fowl go free, the fowler ta'en.

P. Fletcher

APOSTATE NATIONS DESTROYED AT THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Num. xxiv. 17. Psalm ii. 9. Isaiah xiii. 9—13; xxiv.; xxviii. 22; xxx. 27, 28; xxxiii. 10—12; xxxiv. 1—8; xlii. 13, 14; lxiii. 1—6; lxvi. 15, 16. Dan. vii. 9—11. Hab. iii. 3—12. Zeph. i. 14—18; iii. 8. Hag. ii. 22. Mal. iv. 1. Luke xix. 27. 2 Thess. i. 6—10. Rev. ii. 27.

"I have trodden the field of battle alone,
Yet their armies are scattered, their banners are strown;

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And still will I tread o'er the lists of their pride,
Till in yet deeper crimson my raiment is dyed.
For I have arisen—arisen at length,
In the day of my wrath, with the sword of my strength,
With the seal on my arm, and the stain on my vest,
And where I have fought shall my people be blest."

H. Rogers.

ISRAEL AND JUDAH THE INSTRUMENTS.

Isaiah xli. 15. Jer. li. 19—23. Ezek. xxxviii. 18—22. Obad. 18. Micah iv. 11—13; v. 8, 9; vii. 16, 17. Zech. ix. 13, 14; xii. 2—9; xiv. 14.

FIRST RESURRECTION.

Job xix. 25, 26. Isaiah xxvi. 19. Luke xiv. 13, 14; xx. 35, 36. John v. 25. Acts iv. 2. 1 Cor. xv. 23. Phil. iii. 11. 1 Thess. iv. 16. Heb. xi. 35. Rev. xx. 5.

The dead in Christ are first to rise,
And greet the archangel's warning;
To meet the Saviour in the skies
On this auspicious morning;
No gloomy fears their souls dismay,
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet Him.

Collyer.

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THE GLORIOUS REIGN OF CHRIST.

Psalm ii. 6; xxii. 28; xlvii. 6—9; xciii. 1, 2; xcvii. 1, 2. Isaiah ix. 6, 7; xxxii. 1. Jer. xxx. 9; xxxiii. 14—21. Zech. vi. 13.

What Potentate
Sits there, the King of time and fate?
Whom glory covers like a robe,
Whose sceptre shakes the solid globe,
Whom shapes of fire and splendour guard!
There sits the man whose face was marred;
To whom archangels bow the knee,
The weeper of Gethsemane!

Croly.

PERSONAL REIGN.

Job xix. 25, 26. Psalm cii. 16. Isaiah xii. 6; xvi. 5; xxiv. 23; lx. 13. Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24; xxxvii. 24, 27; xliii. 5, 7; xliv. 1, 2. Joel iii. 17, 21. Micah i. 3; iv. 7. Zeph. iii. 15, 17. Zech. ii. 10, 12; vi. 12, 13; viii. 3; xiv. 3—5. Matt. xxiv. 30. Luke i. 32, 33. John xviii. 36. Acts i. 11; iii. 19—21. 2 Tim. iv. 1. Rev. xxi. 3.

Come, then, and added to thy many crowns,
Receive yet one, the crown of all the earth,
Thou who alone art worthy! It was thine
By ancient covenant, ere nature's birth;
And thou hast made it thine by purchase since,
And overpaid its value with thy blood.
Thy saints proclaim thee king, and in their hearts
Thy title is engraven with a pen
Dipped in the fountain of eternal love.

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Thy saints proclaim thee king; and thy delay
Gives courage to their foes, who, could they see
The dawn of thy last advent, long-desired,
Would creep into the bowels of the hills,
And flee for safety to the falling rocks.

Cowper.

EARTHLY KINGDOM.

Psalm xxxvii. 9, 11, 22, 29, 34; lxxii.; xcvi.; xcvii.; xcviii.; xcix. Isaiah xvi. 5. Micah iv. 7. Matt. v. 5. Luke i. 32, 33. Rev. v. 10.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Watts.

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REIGN OF THE SAINTS ON EARTH.

Psalm xxxvii. 9, 11, 22, 29, 34. Dan. vii. 22, 27. Matt. v. 5; xix. 28. 1 Cor. vi. 2, 3. 2 Tim. ii. 10, 12; iv. 8. Rev. i. 5, 6; ii. 26, 27; iii. 21; v. 10; xx. 4—6.

The just, who admitted by grace,
The first resurrection attain,
With raptures each other embrace,
And one with the Deity reign.

C. Wesley.

NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH.

Psalm cii. 25—28. Isaiah li. 16; lxv. 17—19; lxvi. 22. 2 Peter iii. 10, 13. Rev. xxi. 1.

The world shall burn, and from her ashes spring
New heavens and earth, wherein the just shall dwell,
And, after all their tribulations long,
See golden days, fruitful of golden deeds,
With joy and love triumphing, and fair truth.

Milton.

NEW JERUSALEM.

Ezek. xlviii. 18, 19. 2 Cor. v. 1. Gal. iv. 26. Heb. xi. 10, 16. Rev. iii. 12; xxi. 10, 16.

There is a city that shall be
Strong and unmoved to all eternity.
No sun illuminates that city bright,
No moon is there to cheer dark dismal night;
No night is there, God is its beaming sun;
Its light the Lamb, the Holy Three in One!
What city thus shall cankering age contemn?
No earthly work; the New Jerusalem.

Anon.

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ALL NATIONS SHALL COME TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP.

Psalm lxxii. 9—11. Isaiah ii. 2, 3; lxvi. 23. Jer. iii. 17. Micah iv. 1, 2. Zech. viii. 20—22; xiv. 16—21.

All kingdoms and all princes of the earth
Flock to that light: the glory of all lands
Flow into her; unbounded is her joy,
And endless her increase. Thy rams are there,
Nebajoth, and the flocks of Kedar there;
The looms of Ormus, and the mines of Ind,
And Saba's spicy groves pay tribute there.
Praise is in all her gates; upon her walls
And in her streets, and in her spacious courts,
Is heard salvation. Eastern Java there
Kneels with the native of the farthest west;
And Ethiopia spreads abroad her hand,
And worships. Her report has travelled forth
Into all lands. From every clime they come,
To see thy beauty, and to share thy joy,
O Sion! an assembly such as earth
Saw never, such as heaven stoops down to see.

Cowper.

ISRAEL THE MOST HONOURED NATION.

Isaiah xi. 14; xiv. 1, 2; xlix. 23; lx. 12; lxi. 5, 6. Jer. iii. 17; xxxiii. 9. Micah iv. 8. Zeph. iii. 19, 20. Mal. iii. 12.

Rise, crowned with light, imperial Salem, rise!
Exalt thy towering head, and lift thy eyes:
See a long race thy spacious courts adorn,
In future sons and daughters yet unborn;
In crowding ranks on every side arise,
Demanding life, impatient for the skies!

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See barbarous nations at thy gates attend,
Walk in thy light, and in thy temple bend!
See thy bright altars thronged with prostrate kings,
And heaped with products of Sabean springs!

Pope.

THE WHOLE EARTH BLESSED.

Psalm lxxii. 1—17. Isaiah xix. 24, 25. Micah iv. 2—4; v. 7. Zech. viii. 13.

All creatures worship man, and all mankind
One Lord, one Father. Error has no place;
That creeping pestilence is driven away;
The breath of heaven has chased it. In the heart
No passion touches a discordant string;
But all is harmony and love.
One song employs all nations; and all cry,
"Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain for us!"
The dwellers in the vales and on the rocks,
Shout to each other, and the mountain tops
From distant mountains catch the flying joy;
Till, nation after nation taught the strain,
Earth rolls the rapturous hosanna round.

Cowper.

EXTENDED TO THE INFERIOR CREATION.

Psalm lxvii. 4—7; xcvi. 10—13. Isaiah xi. 6—9; lv. 13; lxv. 25. Hosea ii. 18. Rom. viii. 21.

Rivers of gladness water all the earth,
And clothe all climes with beauty; the reproach
Of barrenness is past, the fruitful field
Laughs with abundance; and the land, once lean,

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Or fertile only in its own disgrace,
Exults to see its thistly curse repealed.
The various seasons, woven into one,
And that one season an eternal spring;
The garden fears no blight, and needs no fence,
For there is none to covet; all are full.
The lion, and the libbard, and the bear,
Graze with the fearless flocks; all bask at noon
Together, or all gambol in the shade
Of the same grove, and drink one common stream;
Antipathies are none. No foe to man
Lurks in the serpent now; the mother sees,
And smiles to see her infant's playful hand
Stretched forth to dally with the crested worm,
To stroke his azure neck, or to receive
The lambent homage of his arrowy tongue.

Cowper.

Waste sandy valleys, once perplexed with thorn,
The spiry fir and shapely box adorn;
To leafless shrubs the flowering palms succeed,
And odorous myrtle to the noisome weed.
The lambs with wolves shall graze the verdant mead,
And boys in flowery bands the tiger lead;
The steer and lion at one crib shall meet,
And harmless serpents lick the pilgrims' feet;
The smiling infant in his hand shall take
The crested basilisk and speckled snake,
Pleased the green lustre of the scales survey,
And with their forky tongue shall innocently play.

Pope.

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THE MORAL CHARACTER OF THE REDEEMER'S KINGDOM.

Psalm lxxii. 1—7, 11—14. Luke xi. 2. 2 Peter iii. 13. Rev. xxii. 3.

We would see
A world that does not dread and hate his laws,
And suffer for its crime; o'er which
Custom and prejudice shall bear no sway,
Where violence shall never lift the sword,
Nor cunning justify the proud man's wrong,
Leaving the poor no remedy but tears:
Where he that fills an office, shall esteem
The occasion it presents of doing good
More than the perquisite; where law shall speak
Seldom, and never but as wisdom prompts,
And equity;
Where fashion shall not sanctify abuse,
Nor smooth good-breeding, (supplemental grace)
With lean performance ape the work of love.

Cowper.

DEATH AND SIN DURING THE MILLENNIUM.

Isaiah lxv. 20. Ezek. xliii. 19—22, 25; xliv. 25; xlv. 17, 19, 20, 22. Rev. xxii. 2.

The bad, but few, became
A taunt and hissing now, as heretofore
The good, and blushing hasted out of sight.
Men grew and multiplied upon the earth,
And filled the city and the waste; and death
Stood waiting for the lapse of tardy age,
That mocked him long.

Pollok.

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THE SECOND ADVENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SHOULD BE DESIRED BY HIS PEOPLE.

Cant. viii. 14. Isaiah lxiv. 1. Matt. vi. 10. Rom. viii. 23. 1 Cor. i. 7. Phil. iii. 20. 1 Thess. i. 10. 2 Tim. iv. 8. Titus ii. 13. Heb. ix. 28. 2 Peter iii. 12. Rev. xxii. 20.

The church in her militant state
  Is weary and cannot forbear;
The saints in an agony wait,
  To see him again in the air!
The Spirit invites in the Bride,
  Her heavenly Lord to descend;
And place her enthroned at his side,
  In glory that never shall end.

C. Wesley.

THE HABITUAL CONTEMPLATION OF THE ADVENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS SEVERAL PRACTICAL TENDENCIES.

IT IS A STIMULUS TO ACTIVITY.

Matt. xxiv. 45—50. Luke xix. 13—26. 2 Peter iii. 14.

WATCHFULNESS AND SOBRIETY OF SPIRIT.

Matt. xxiv. 42; xxv. 1—13. Luke xii. 35—40; xxi. 34—36. Phil. iv. 5. 1 Thess. v. 1—8. 1 Peter i. 13; iv. 7. Rev. xvi. 15.

Think not of rest; though dreams be sweet,
Start up and ply your heavenward feet;
Is not God's oath upon your head,
Ne'er to sink back on slothful bed,

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Never again your loins untie,
Nor let your torches waste and die,
Till, when the shadows thickest fall,
Ye hear your Master's midnight call?

Keble.

IT GIVES SUPPORT AND COMFORT IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL.

1 Thess. iv. 13—18. 2 Thess. i. 6—10. 1 Peter i. 6, 7; iv. 12, 13.

Ye who faint beneath the load
  Of sin, your heads lift up;
See your great redeeming God;
  He comes, and bids you hope:
In the midnight of your grief,
  Jesus doth his mourners cheer;
Lo! he brings you sure relief;
  Believe, and feel him here.

C. Wesley.

PATIENT HOPE AND JOYFUL ANTICIPATION.

Isaiah xxv. 9. Luke xxi. 28. 1 Thess. ii. 19. 2 Thess. iii. 5. Titus ii. 13. Heb. x. 36, 37. James v. 7, 8.

Wait we all in patient hope,
  Till Christ the Judge shall come,
We shall soon be caught up
  To meet the general doom!
In an hour to us unknown,
  As a thief in deepest night,
Christ shall suddenly come down,
  With all his saints in light.

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Who can tell the happiness
  This glorious hope affords?
Joy unaltered we possess
  In these reviving words;
Happy while on earth we breathe,
  Mightier bliss ordained to know:
Trampling down sin, hell, and death,
  To the third heaven we go.

C. Wesley.

IT GIVES THE PROSPECT OF CONFORMITY TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.

Psalm xvii. 15. 1 Cor. xv. 49. Phil. iii. 21. 1 Thess. v. 23, 24. 1 John iii. 2.

This life I at length shall resign,
  And a better receive at his hand;
He will raise me to shine in his image divine,
  With him in his glory to stand.

Anon.

GENERAL USES.

1 Cor. i. 7. Phil. iv. 5. Col. iii. 4, 5. 1 Thess. iii. 12, 13. 1 Tim. vi. 14. Heb. x. 25, 35, 38. 2 Peter iii. 11, 14. Jude 20, 21.

Hearken to the solemn voice,
  The awful midnight cry!
Waiting souls, rejoice, rejoice,
  And see the Bridegroom nigh!
Lo! he comes to keep his word;
Light and joy his lips impart;
Go ye forth to meet your Lord,
  And meet him in your heart.

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Ye whose loins are girt, stand forth,
  Whose lamps are burning bright;
Worthy in your Saviour's worth,
  To walk with him in white:
Jesus bids your hearts be clean,
Bids you all his promise prove;
Jesus comes to cast out sin,
  And perfect you in love.

C. Wesley.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO DESIRE THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST.

Isaiah lxiv. 4. Luke xii. 36—38. Phil. iii. 20, 21. 2 Tim. iv. 8. Heb. ix. 28.

That glorious crown his righteous Lord should give,
And not to him alone, but all who love,
And look for Christ's appearing from above,
In such resplendent semblance as before,
Transfigured on the Mount, Emmanuel bore.

Miss Colthurst.

GENERAL RESURRECTION.

Dan. xii. 2. Matt. xxii. 31. Mark xii. 26. John v. 29; xi. 24. Acts xvii. 32; xxiii. 6; xxiv. 15, 21. 1 Cor. xv. 12, 13, 21.

Reason, how unavailing all thy power,
And mortal ken, how impotent thy sight,
To grasp the fancied vision of that hour,
When all that ever lived shall live to die no more!

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All that have ever lived! the countless dead,
Who in the billowy sea have found a tomb,
Shall then arouse them from their stormy bed,
Peopling the waves, thick as the ocean foam;
All nations to that summoning shall come,
All who have ever breathed on earth's wide face,
From him who first in Eden's happy home,
Image of God, shone with unearthly grace,
To the last scion of the earthly race.

Anon.

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